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FORTY-NINTH SESSION
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SPECIAL POLITICAL AND
DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEE
(FOURTH COMMITTEE)
16th meeting
held on
Wednesday, 2 November 1994
at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 16th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. HUDYMA (Ukraine)

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AGENDA ITEM 77: UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST (continued)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 77: UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST (continued) (A/49/13, A/49/288-S/1994/903, A/49/439, A/49/440, A/49/441, A/49/442, A/49/443, A/49/448, A/49/488, A/49/505, A/49/509 and A/49/570)

1. Mr. TAKAHASHI (Japan) said that his Government strongly endorsed the establishment of Palestinian self-government in Gaza and Jericho and the signing of the peace treaty between Israel and Jordan, and expressed its admiration for the courage demonstrated by the leaders concerned and for the tireless efforts of the parties involved in the negotiations. His Government was hopeful that that progress would be followed by yet another significant step, a breakthrough in the negotiations between Israel and Syria and between Israel and Lebanon. Japan for its part would spare no effort towards the attainment of the final goal of a just, lasting and comprehensive settlement in the Middle East.

2. Those achievements had significantly increased the importance of the activities and responsibilities of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), which was now expected to provide assistance to about 3 million Palestine refugees. Japan deeply appreciated and strongly supported the promptness with which UNRWA was responding to the evolving situation, in particular, its actions to implement short- and medium-term projects under the Peace Implementation Programme to benefit refugees and other needy Palestinians. He wished to stress that all refugees - not only those in Gaza and the West Bank, but also those in Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic - continued to require assistance. In that respect, the important role of the Multilateral Working Group on Refugees must be recognized, and continued support must be given to its activities.

3. Clearly, without the generous financial support of the international community, UNRWA would not be able to meet those new challenges, particularly in view of the perennial shortfall in its budget. Japan had been a strong and consistent supporter of the Agency, contributing a total of US$ 279 million in cash and food aid over the period between 1953 and 1993. His Government was making every effort to increase its assistance to the Agency. In 1994 it had decided to contribute to the UNRWA budget US$ 17.5 million, or approximately 50 per cent more than in the previous year. Of that sum, US$ 12 million would be allocated to the General Fund, because his Government was deeply concerned about the crucial deficit in the regular budget of UNRWA caused by the increase in administrative expenses related to the increasing number of special projects of the Agency. It was to be hoped that donor countries supporting such special projects would take the necessary administrative costs into account in their financial contributions. The UNRWA secretariat was also expected to take that into consideration in compiling and presenting such projects.

4. Moreover, in August 1994 his Government had provided 1 billion yen, or about US$ 10 million, in food aid, a contribution in kind which Japan had been extending to the Palestinians through UNRWA since 1970. In September, his

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Government had pledged an additional US$ 200 million over a two-year period. Of that sum, US$ 60 million, including the food aid to which he had referred, had already been disbursed. Through the Japan International Cooperation Agency and other Japanese governmental organizations, assistance was extended to the Palestinian people in education and vocational training. His Government had received Palestinian students and trainees in Japan, and had dispatched experts to organize vocational training for Palestinians at home.

5. Japan supported the initiative of the Secretary-General and UNRWA to transfer the Agency's headquarters to its area of operations. That would greatly facilitate communication and coordination with both Israel and the Palestinian Interim Self-Government Authority, and would enable the Agency to respond more quickly to the needs of the refugees in Gaza. At the same time, a number of legal, technical, administrative and financial questions remained to be addressed. His Government strongly hoped that, before further action was taken on the transfer of the headquarters, all those questions would be comprehensively studied in close consultation with the Advisory Commission and other donor countries, so that the effectiveness of UNRWA activities would in no way be impaired and the interests of the Palestinian refugees in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, as well as in Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic, would continue to be served. Japan was ready to participate actively in those consultations. He wished also to point out that the cost of the transfer of UNRWA headquarters should not be borne by the approved budget of the Agency, as had been clearly stated in the report of the Working Group on the Financing of UNRWA (A/49/570).

6. Mr. AL-ATTAR (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the report of the Commissioner-General of UNRWA (A/49/13) provided important information on how assistance was extended to Palestine refugees in a situation of arbitrary rule by the Israeli authorities. The Syrian Arab Republic attached great importance to the annual reports of the Agency and their comprehensive nature. For its part, the Syrian Arab Republic constantly provided assistance to Palestine refugees, seeking to improve their situation, until they could finally return home.

7. With respect to the transfer of UNRWA headquarters to the Gaza Strip, the Secretary-General had not held consultations with the countries hosting refugees. From the legal standpoint, such a transfer was out of the question, because those countries would then no longer be able to attend UNRWA meetings which took place there. In that connection, a question arose regarding the future of the Agency and the services it provided. The disadvantages of the transfer of the headquarters outweighed its advantages. It was to be hoped that the Secretary-General would take account of the comments of the Syrian Arab Republic and review the decision to transfer the headquarters. An additional division of UNRWA could however be established in the Gaza Strip to assist the refugees located there.

8. The expenditure on the assistance extended to Palestine refugees by the Syrian Arab Republic and the other host countries was extremely high. The resources allocated by other countries to meet those needs did not cover the

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expenditure. However, there was no reference to that in the UNRWA report. It would be desirable for the Commissioner-General to reflect that fact in his next report.

9. The report referred to the Agency's budget deficit and proposed tackling that deficit by reducing the volume of services, as had been done the previous year. However, such a minimal volume of services could not satisfy the needs of the refugees. It was to be hoped that those decisions would not be implemented, and that the measures already taken to cut the resources earmarked would be suspended. The Commissioner-General should request the donor countries to increase their contributions, and also to endeavour to obtain on the local market the goods needed to satisfy the needs of the Palestine refugees.

10. Services provided by UNRWA to the Palestine refugees in the areas of education, health and social programmes had been cut back. In a situation where entire Palestinian families' sole means of subsistence was the rations distributed by UNRWA, the possibilities of organizing food aid had been curtailed. All that had an adverse effect on the situation of the refugees in the Syrian Arab Republic.

11. According to paragraph 17 of the report of the Commissioner-General, US$ 22 million of extrabudgetary resources would be needed to finance the Agency's move. That sum would be better spent on increasing the effectiveness of UNRWA's work and reducing its budget deficit. That would enable it to raise the level of services and, in accordance with the Agency's mandate, to improve the standard of living of the Palestine refugees, which was now extremely low.

12. In conclusion, he noted the efforts made by the Commissioner-General and his staff to fulfil the Agency's mandate, and expressed the hope that the decisions taken by the international community would finally be implemented and that the Palestine refugees would return to their homes, thus marking the completion of the Agency's mission.

13. Mr. AHMED (Bangladesh) noted that there had recently been some positive political developments in the Middle East, including the signing of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements, the Cairo and Paris accords, and the "early empowerment" agreement. Another momentous event had been the signing of the peace treaty between Jordan and Israel, putting an end to 46 years of war. The indirect communications between the Syrian Arab Republic and Israel were another hopeful sign.

14. Those breakthroughs in the peace process would greatly assist UNRWA in its efforts to fulfil its mandate and objectives. The Peace Implementation Programme launched in 1993 had already given due prominence to income generation, job creation, environmental protection and support for the private sector. Also to be commended were the traditional efforts UNRWA had been making to attract investment in order to improve infrastructure and services in the spheres of education, health, relief and social services in the occupied territories. The Programme's project proposals for the West Bank and the Gaza Strip raised hopes of progress in the right direction. Even more promising was

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the spontaneous response to those proposals by donors, who had already provided more than half the resources needed.

15. An important initiative by UNRWA had been the strengthening of its administrative and managerial structures in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The decision to move the Project and Development Office from the Agency's headquarters in Vienna to the West Bank, in order to facilitate cooperation with the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction and to ensure effective monitoring of projects, was a timely one. All those movements would of course entail additional expenditure, which should be considered separately, outside the approved budget of the Agency. Implementation of those measures would result in savings in subsequent years.

16. Bangladesh welcomed the Secretary-General's appointment of a Special Coordinator in the occupied territories. That measure would give the Palestinian authorities confidence and would make it possible to prepare them for assumption of full responsibility for UNRWA programmes and measures in various fields.

17. Bangladesh supported the Agency's view that in order to achieve those objectives, a five-year financial planning horizon needed to be established. The five-year time-frame would also allow all parties to consider gradual phasing out of UNRWA activities as the peace process came closer to solving the refugee problem. It was imperative that major UNRWA donors should recognize the crucial importance of the coming period and increase the volume of their aid.

18. Bangladesh shared the general optimism with regard to the possibility of peace between Israel and its Arab neighbours, and supported the Agency's successful activities and its future programmes. However, it remained alarmed by the reports that, during the period under review, housing construction had continued in Israeli settlements in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and that confiscation of Palestinian land continued. Such unreasonable Israeli policies would ultimately result in an explosion of resentment bringing further sorrow and suffering to all.

19. Bangladesh accordingly wished to reiterate its firm conviction that the final establishment of complete peace and security in the occupied territories and in the Middle East as a whole ultimately depended on the return of all occupied and confiscated land, on the solution of the question of Palestine refugees, and on just settlement of the Middle East problem within the framework of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973). The encouraging agreements recently concluded, and also those expected to materialize in the near future, justified hopes that those objectives would be achieved.

20. Ms. ZACHARIAH (Malaysia) said her delegation was happy to note that, following the historic developments which had taken place during the period under review, the relationship between UNRWA and the Palestinian people had entered a new era. Her delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's decision to move the headquarters of the Agency from Vienna to the Gaza Strip, a decision

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that demonstrated the commitment of the United Nations to the achievement of peace in the region.

21. While welcoming the positive developments that had taken place, her delegation was disturbed that the security situation in the occupied territories, and specifically in the West Bank, had not changed, as was evidenced by the continuing clashes, the repressive measures taken by the Israeli authorities, the maintenance of tension and the continuing confiscation of Palestinian land. Referring to the report of the Commissioner-General, which contained information about interference by the Israeli authorities in UNRWA activities, Malaysia once again called upon Israel, the occupying Power, to fulfil its obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 and to respect the privileges and immunities of UNRWA.

22. Her delegation was equally concerned about the continued disruptions in education services caused by general strikes, military-ordered closures and curfews. It believed that the continued deprivation of education suffered by the Palestinians was a denial of basic human rights and therefore totally unacceptable.

23. With regard to the financial problem facing the Agency, her delegation shared the view expressed by the Commissioner-General that to discontinue UNRWA's services for lack of funds would not be in the best interests of the refugees, nor would such a development contribute to the maintenance of stability during such a delicate period. Malaysia, for its part, would maintain its modest but regular contribution to UNRWA. In that connection she announced that her Government would contribute a sum of US$ 10,000 to UNRWA for 1994. Her delegation supported the Agency's view on the need to establish a five-year financial planning horizon which would make it possible to identify what resources would be required for UNRWA to meet its commitments to Palestine refugees.

24. Lastly, her delegation wished to express its gratitude to UNRWA for its remarkable work over the previous 40 years in alleviating the sufferings of the Palestinian people. She was optimistic that peace would shortly become a reality in the occupied territories, enabling the Palestinian people to chart their own destiny.

25. Mr. HAAKONSEN (Denmark), speaking also on behalf of the Nordic countries, said that the setting up of the Palestinian Authority and related Palestinian administrative structures created new possibilities and challenges for UNRWA. The Nordic countries had noted with appreciation that UNRWA's efforts to follow up the Peace Implementation Programme were proceeding well and that donors had responded positively to the call for resources. They were disturbed, however, by the reported shortfall in contributions to the Agency's regular budget. He urged the States in the region to follow the example of Saudi Arabia in that regard.

26. It was vital that the various international activities, including those of UNRWA, should be transferred as smoothly as possible to the Palestinian

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authorities. The activities in UNRWA's traditional priority areas, however, should still receive due attention. The view of the Nordic countries was that UNRWA should undertake non-traditional activities only where there was special, additional finance for them and where UNRWA had special competence to offer. At the same time, some resources should be devoted to making UNRWA's expertise available to other multilateral and bilateral donors. More generally, the Nordic countries wished to stress the importance of close coordination between all donors and the Palestinian authorities. They also commended UNRWA for acting as a provisional emergency channel of short-term assistance to the Palestinian police force.

27. With regard to the Secretary-General's decision, on the basis of General Assembly resolution 48/40 A, to transfer UNRWA's headquarters, he said that the Nordic countries supported the decision in principle, but in their view a number of important points should be taken into consideration before taking further steps towards its implementation. First, it was essential to ensure that the effectiveness of UNRWA's operations would not be impaired and, secondly, the transfer costs must be financed through genuinely additional resources, to which end a detailed financial plan should be produced. The transfer of the headquarters must imply a restructuring of UNRWA's activities, with a view to gradually reducing the role of the organization. The Nordic countries welcomed the Secretary-General's decision to appoint a Special Coordinator in the Occupied Territories. Lastly, he noted the impressive developments that had occurred over the previous year following the signing of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and said that the hopes of the Palestinian people for a better life must be fulfilled.

28. Mr. Myung Hwan YU (Republic of Korea) said that, following the historic signing of the Declaration of Principles between the Government of Israel and the PLO in September 1993, another achievement had been added to the Middle East peace process with the signing of a peace treaty between Jordan and Israel on 26 October 1994. His Government applauded the courage and tenacity of both countries in realizing a long-standing vision of peace through the accord and sincerely hoped that such breakthroughs would form the basis of a just, lasting and total peace in the Middle East in the near future.

29. At a time when international developments had given new momentum to the peace process in the area UNRWA had, in the words of the Commissioner-General, entered a new era in its relationship with the Palestinian people. His delegation recognized the importance of identifying new priorities in the changed environment, including the improvement of socio-economic conditions for Palestinians in the Near East, the enhancement of the physical and social structures which would eventually be transferred to the Palestinian Authority and the creation of work opportunities.

30. His delegation commended UNRWA's achievements during the year under review, particularly the establishment of the Peace Implementation Programme, with its strategy for rapid modernization of the socio-economic infrastructure in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

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31. At the same time his delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's appointment of a Special Coordinator, who would contribute to the efforts of the United Nations in the region. It also supported the Secretary-General's decision to move UNRWA's headquarters from Vienna to Gaza by the end of 1995; if UNRWA was to respond to the needs of Palestine refugees in an integrated and coherent manner it should be situated at the heart of the action.

32. His delegation was impressed by the development in UNRWA's approach as a result of its assessment of the needs of the Palestinian people over the previous few years. The building of greater self-reliance was the most valuable objective of the Agency's activities. His delegation believed that the establishment of a stable and secure environment in the Near East was a vital necessity at that critical stage of the peace process. Noting that recent acts of violence in the area hampered the peace process, his country hoped that further confidence-building measures would be taken by all concerned parties in the region.

33. In its efforts to provide relief for Palestine refugees, UNRWA would have to rely on the financial assistance of the international community. In that connection the Government of the Republic of Korea had decided to offer, on a bilateral basis with the Palestinian Authority, US$ 12 million for the rehabilitation projects of the Palestinian people in the Near East for the period 1994-1998. In addition his Government would supply the PLO with transport facilities and launch several training programmes and specialist assistance programmes.

34. The Government of the Republic of Korea would support the successful final resolution of the whole peace process in the Middle East in pursuance of the relevant Security Council resolutions.

35. Mr. AL-NAQBI (United Arab Emirates) paid tribute to UNRWA's personnel for its efforts to provide assistance to Palestine refugees; and expressed his approval of the Agency's recent initiatives in the light of the latest developments in the Middle East; UNRWA's success in that field required the support of the whole international community. That would make it possible to establish a durable financial basis for UNRWA's activity, taking into account the latest developments in the region. The needs of the refugees were growing, and required more rapid provision of assistance by individual countries and by organizations of the United Nations system.

36. As a result of the conflict in the Middle East, many people had been forced to leave their homes and property. A solution to the refugee problem had been proposed by the General Assembly in paragraph 11 of its resolution 194 (III), which provided for the absolute and unconditional right of the refugees to return to their homes or to receive compensation for the loss of their property. That resolution, which had subsequently been reaffirmed more than once, and article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which proclaimed the right of everyone to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country, were the basis of the international legislative solution to the problems of the Palestinian refugees, and the current discussions should seek to

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affirm that legal order. The disastrous situation of the Palestine refugees had lasted for a long time and it had long since become necessary to guarantee the refugees' right to return to their homes on the basis of international law and in conformity with the resolutions of the United Nations.

37. Archbishop MARTINO (Observer for the Holy See) said that his delegation was particularly satisfied by the recent encouraging developments in the Middle East. The continuing efforts to bring peace and security to the areas served by UNRWA should be highly commended.

38. The Holy See had been a participant in the long peace process: the Apostolic Nunciature had been opened in Tel Aviv; a "permanent and official" relationship had been established between the Holy See and the Palestine Liberation Organization, reflecting the fruitful working contacts that had existed for many years between both parties; full diplomatic relations had been established with Jordan. His delegation welcomed the recent signing of a peace agreement between Israel and Jordan and commended the perspicacity and patience of the negotiators.

39. All those agreements were small but necessary steps in the journey that would bring peace to the land called holy by Jews, Christians and Muslims. It would however be remiss not to draw attention to the activities of extremists in that region of divisions and conflicts, which were a real and permanent threat to the task of seeking a just, lasting and comprehensive peace by political means. The nations of the world should condemn acts of senseless violence that brought death and injury to innocent civilians. The world community should use all reasonable resources to support efforts towards the attainment of a comprehensive peace settlement.

40. His delegation reiterated its concern about the status of Jerusalem. Pope John Paul II had expressed the hope that by virtue of its unique character that Holy City could be the object of international guarantees that would guarantee access to it by all believers. It would be inadmissible if, while the negotiations were under way, any effort whatsoever was made to change the demography of the Holy City and its surroundings. The concept of a "Greater Jerusalem" could have a negative impact on the negotiations. The status of Jerusalem should be the topic of open negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians, in which the three religious communities represented there should play a decisive role.

41. The Holy See was deeply concerned about the fears expressed by many inhabitants of Lebanon that their country would be obliged to pay an unacceptable price for the long-awaited peace - that of its territorial integrity and sovereignty. The international community should not forget the heavy burdens carried by Lebanon, or its efforts towards reconciliation and harmony. His delegation prayed that the rich, centuries-old tradition of collaboration between Christians and Muslims in Lebanon which had been one of the characteristic traits of Lebanese society would again triumph.

42. Since 1949 the Holy See had been providing assistance to refugees in the region, often in close collaboration with UNRWA. First-hand experience of assisting refugees allowed it to assert that the successful negotiations referred to previously would be vain if the necessary funds and the possibility of engaging in gainful employment were not made available to the Palestinian communities. A guarantee of jobs for the Palestinians was undoubtedly one way to guarantee the security of Israel. It was also undoubtable that a rapid and concrete realization of the provisions of the agreements would reinforce the peace process. The whole international community should assume tangible obligations towards achieving that end.

43. His delegation commended the work of the negotiators in the peace process and UNRWA's activity during the current difficult time of transition. Now as never before, there was a need for efforts by all organizations and parties to consolidate what had been achieved. The way ahead was long and arduous, but it no longer seemed utopian to say that the peoples of the Middle East could live in mutual trust.

The meeting rose at 11.50 a.m.

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SPECIAL POLITICAL AND
DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEE
(FOURTH COMMITTEE)
17th meeting
held on
Thursday, 3 November 1994
at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 17th MEETING

Chairman:	Mr. SAMANA (Vice-Chairman)	(Papua New Guinea)
later:	Mr. HUDYMA (Chairman)	(Ukraine)

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AGENDA ITEM 77: UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST (continued)

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In the absence of Mr. Hudyma (Ukraine), Mr. Samana (Papua New Guinea), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 77: UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST (continued) (A/49/13, A/49/288-S/1994/903, A/49/439, A/49/440, A/49/441, A/49/442, A/49/443, A/49/448, A/49/488, A/49/505, A/49/509 and A/49/570)

1. Mr. ELARABY (Egypt) said that for over forty years the international community had placed great hopes in a comprehensive and full solution to the Palestinian problem in all its aspects, including the problem of Palestinian refugees. The developments since the Madrid Conference of 1991, including the signing of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements, the Cairo Agreement and the early empowerment accord, made it possible to be optimistic about the future. However, it should be borne in mind that a just solution of the problem was impossible without ensuring all the national rights of the Palestinian people, including the rights to repatriation and compensation recognized in General Assembly resolution 194 (III).

2. With the progress that had already been achieved, the question arose of the need to expand the activities of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA); there was general agreement about its special role at the transitional stage leading to a final settlement. His delegation paid tribute to the effectiveness with which UNRWA had responded to the need to carry out new tasks under the new conditions. UNRWA had made a substantial contribution to the work of the working group established by the Secretary-General for those purposes. In consultation with the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), and with the financial support of donor countries, UNRWA had embarked on the Peace Implementation Programme. It was gratifying that UNRWA was expanding its activities and that, rather than confining itself to providing assistance, it was encouraging the Palestinians to gain economic independence by promoting the development of income-generating activities and allocating resources to training for small businesses. Agreement had also been reached on its participation in the payment of salaries to the Palestinian police. Donors had immediately reacted favourably to the new proposals by UNRWA and had granted substantial resources for their implementation. Egypt hoped that, as a result of international recognition of the role of UNRWA in promoting the development of the peace process as a whole, it would also be possible to increase the volume of resources allocated to the regular budget of UNRWA, which still had a considerable financial deficit. Along with the new requirements, there was also a growing need for resources to carry out traditional activities in the areas of health, education, food, environmental protection and job-creation, both in the occupied territories and beyond.

3. Egypt welcomed the transfer of the headquarters of UNRWA to the region of its activity, and also the positive developments noted in the report of the

Commissioner-General leading to the withdrawal of Israeli troops from some areas of the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

4. Egypt hoped that, within the framework of the peace process, the tragedy of the Palestinian people and of the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories would soon be brought to an end. It also hoped that, in his next report, the Commissioner-General would be able to report tangible cooperation between the Palestinians and the occupying authorities and that the report would be a basis for strengthening trust between the two sides and consolidating many positive aspects of the process of the establishment and maintenance of peace.

5. His delegation believed that there was every opportunity to achieve consensus in the General Assembly on the draft resolution on UNRWA. That was particularly important at a time when there was international agreement on the significance of the role of UNRWA in the development of the peace process in the Middle East.

6. Egypt would not wish to disregard the vitally important role of UNRWA in providing assistance to Palestinian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic, where there were more than 1.7 million Palestinians. That represented a constructive contribution to the multilateral negotiations and would ultimately make it possible to achieve a just resolution of the remaining issues.

7. Egypt noted that, although the problems had not yet been fully resolved, it could be said that the international community was on the right track leading to the attainment of the goals for which UNRWA had been established - the goals of a just and comprehensive solution of the situation of the Palestinian refugees within the framework of a peace settlement guaranteeing all the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people.

8. Mr. PIBULSONGGRAM (Thailand) said that there had been a number of positive developments following the signing of the Declaration of Principles, including the peace treaty between Israel and Jordan. In the relations between the Syrian Arab Republic and Israel, and between Lebanon and Israel, hatred and revenge were being replaced by mutual understanding and cooperation. That was how it should be.

9. That historic breakthrough held out the promise of cooperation between Palestine, Israel and its Arab neighbours; its positive effects would be felt on a much wider regional scale. However, the results would materialize only if the Palestinians were given a chance to develop a viable economic infrastructure to sustain the foundation of the Palestinian nation. It was only through economic and social development that conditions for lasting peace and stability could be created. During the current period of transition, UNRWA would have a crucial role to play in helping to improve social and welfare services and the standard of living of the Palestinian refugees.

10. If the expectations raised by the recent developments were to be fulfilled, it was important to give substantive and visible support to the work undertaken by UNRWA. In that connection, his delegation was deeply concerned about the financial difficulties faced by UNRWA. Everyone agreed that UNRWA was a symbol

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of the international commitment to the Palestinian people; his delegation therefore called on all Member States to contribute generously to its budget. Lip-service alone would never translate aspirations into reality. Countries with large resources should make their fair share of contributions; countries with limited resources should make some contribution to reflect their commitment to the constructive work of UNRWA. Thailand, for its part, would maintain its level of support.

11. Mr. SOEGARDA (Indonesia) said there was no doubt that the historic developments in the Middle East peace process would have a profound impact on UNRWA activities and programmes; UNRWA had entered a new era in its relationship with the Palestinian population.

12. It was undeniable that social and economic development was an essential prerequisite for achieving long-term political stability. The urgent task that currently confronted the international community was to ensure that the Gaza Strip and Jericho were transformed into areas of peace and prosperity, and for that to happen it was essential that the Palestinian people should be given the opportunity to build a viable economic infrastructure. Such an approach would not only enable the new Palestinian Authority to assume its role in governance with success but also promote peace and security in the region.

13. His delegation welcomed the new initiatives undertaken by UNRWA in response to recent political changes, noting in particular the Peace Implementation Programme designed to achieve a rapid improvement of the socio-economic infrastructure in the Gaza Strip and West Bank, and was gratified that the programme had been extended to Palestinian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic.

14. The recent agreement concluded by the (PLO) and UNRWA would ensure the continuation of humanitarian relief services as well as the expansion of programmes in the field of economic and social development, thus reflecting the emerging priorities and meeting the current and long-term needs of the Palestinian people. UNRWA's activities had been augmented by a number of significant steps initiated by the Secretary-General, including the establishment of a task force to establish an integrated United Nations approach towards development in the Gaza Strip and Jericho and the appointment of a Special Coordinator.

15. Owing to its vast experience and long history of services rendered to the local population, UNRWA had a pivotal role to play in sustaining the peace process. The signing of the historic Declaration of Principles and a number of subsequent agreements had heralded the beginning of a new chapter in the history of the region, thereby giving concrete hope that the long suffering of the Palestinian people would soon end. His delegation earnestly hoped that the peace process would be strengthened and developed through all channels and would ultimately result in a just and lasting peace in the Middle East based on Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973).

16. He welcomed the decision to relocate UNRWA's headquarters from Vienna to Gaza by 1995, which demonstrated the United Nations strong commitment to making peace a success as well as its confidence in the Palestinian Authority. For

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its part, Indonesia would continue to lend its unswerving support to the Palestinian people and the PLO as its sole legitimate representative. Indonesia's yearly contribution to UNRWA had been tripled to meet the critical needs of the occupied territories. As an expression of solidarity with the Palestinian people, Indonesia had pledged $5 million during the 1993 donors' conference. He commended the tremendous efforts that UNRWA had exerted under extremely difficult and dangerous conditions and remained confident that its mandate would be successfully concluded in the near future.

17. Mr. MAHMOUD (Lebanon) said that UNRWA's services would be needed for a long time to come. He believed that it would be premature to discuss UNRWA's life span, since that would give the wrong signal to donor countries at a time when the Agency faced serious financial difficulties. Palestinian refugees would continue to depend on the social, health and educational services provided by UNRWA until they could exercise their right of return as stated in General Assembly resolution 194 (III).

18. Regarding the report of the Commissioner-General, Lebanon appreciated the support which the Agency had given to thousands of Palestinian refugees in the Middle East and was convinced that a consensus should emerge among interested parties, particularly host Governments, regarding a perception of UNRWA and its future.

19. Lebanon was host to half a million Palestinian refugees, and their security and safety was increasing with the ongoing normalization of the situation in the country. Lebanon supported their right to self-determination over their land and rejected any attempt to settle them in Lebanon.

20. The Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, like the Lebanese, had suffered from the tragic events in Lebanon from 1975-1990, when thousands of Palestinian families had been displaced. The Lebanese Government was currently embarking on an extensive programme to return displaced persons. That endeavour required large financial support, and his delegation noted with satisfaction the appeal contained in the report of the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (A/49/570) calling on Member States to consider making additional contributions in support of ongoing emergency-related and special programmes in Lebanon.

21. His delegation once again expressed its appreciation for UNRWA's invaluable services and dedication, and commended the generosity of donor countries over the decades; it called on them to continue supporting UNRWA until the Palestinian refugee problem had finally been solved through a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

22. Ms. DARMANIN (Malta) noted that more than a year had passed since the signing of the Declaration of Principles by the Government of Israel and the PLO. During that period violence had again been committed by those who wanted to derail the possibility of reconciliation achieved through a just, lasting and comprehensive peace, and only the strong political will of the Palestinian and Israeli leadership had helped to withstand those acts of provocation.

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23. It had to be acknowledged that the process of change in the region was irreversible. The agreement signed recently between Jordan and Israel underscored the culture of peace which was slowly but surely spreading its roots in the Middle East. A comprehensive perspective to resolve so many long-standing issues required the commitment of all States in the region. Such momentous tasks marked the beginning of a process that had long been awaited by the peoples of the region and the international community as a whole. The international community had to show solidarity not just in word but also in deed at a time when it was needed most.

24. A solution in the Middle East must take into account the difficulties that displaced persons and refugees encountered on a daily basis. The international community had shown itself sensitive to the needs of Palestine refugees by providing them with the necessary assistance through UNRWA. Ever since its inception in 1949, UNRWA had catered to the needs of Palestine refugees in the fields of education, health, relief and social services, extending its activities to Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic.

25. The provision of assistance was put to best use when it addressed the long-term needs of the community, and a future-oriented approach should ensure that Palestinians would be able to meet their own needs. The Government of Malta welcomed the Agency's Peace Implementation Programme, which provided schemes related to income-generation and job-creation, measures to improve the environment and investment for the improvement of infrastructure in education, health care and social services.

26. Education and human resources development provided the foundation for a sustainable democratic society. The Government of Malta commended the Agency's efforts to ensure continuity in that regard. The continued and smooth implementation of the educational process must be ensured, and her delegation hoped that the interruptions in the academic achievement of pupils in the West Bank and Gaza, particularly those due to military-ordered closures and curfews, would cease to occur.

27. The transfer of UNRWA headquarters from Vienna to the Gaza Strip by the end of 1995 was meant to enhance the Agency's ability to respond to the needs of the Palestinian people during the transition period. In carrying out that operation, the Agency should ensure that the costs of the transfer did not have an adverse effect on the services that it provided and that full consideration was given to the operational logistics related to its activities in the Syrian Arab Republic, Lebanon and Jordan.

28. The successful implementation of the peace accords depended on the effective use of financial resources, and her delegation commended the objectives for sustaining and strengthening the ongoing Middle East process that had been set at the Middle East and North African economic summit that had been held in Casablanca the previous week. The role of UNRWA should be assessed within that framework. The flexible structures developed by the Agency would certainly facilitate the eventual handing over of its work and programmes to the Palestinian Authority. In its transition to self-rule, the Palestinian people would be able to benefit from the Agency's activities through the wider support of States Members of the United Nations. For many years, UNRWA had played a

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central role in alleviating the suffering of Palestine refugees, and her delegation was convinced that the continued efforts of the Agency would secure peace and stability for the Palestinian people and the region for the benefit of humankind.

29. Mr. AL-HAMDAM (Saudi Arabia) thanked the Secretary-General for his report, which had been submitted in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 48/40, and the Commissioner-General of UNRWA for his comprehensive report on the work of the Agency, which contained valuable statistics and information that merited close scrutiny.

30. The report provided information about the important activities that the Agency was undertaking in spite of political and financial difficulties, especially in the light of recent events in the peace process, which had complicated the Agency's work and its obligations towards the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and in Palestinian camps in neighbouring countries.

31. He called on all remaining countries to provide the Agency with comprehensive moral and financial support. Saudi Arabia had given UNRWA US$ 20 million in financial assistance to promote the peace process, in which the Agency should play an important role.

32. His delegation hoped that the United Nations would take steps to solve the problem of Palestine refugees in accordance with General Assembly resolution 194 (III). In that regard, he referred to the arbitrary acts of the Israeli authorities, including the detention of UNRWA officials and the unwarranted closing of the occupied territories, and called for an end to that practice, which hindered the Middle East peace process. He hoped that the international community would provide more active support for the work of UNRWA and that the Middle East peace process would succeed.

33. Mr. AL-HASSAN (Oman) said that, since its establishment, UNRWA had rendered important services to Palestine refugees, which enhanced their standard of living, provided them with health care and education and contributed to their economic development. The Agency had proven to be the international body most capable of meeting the needs of Palestine refugees. His delegation hoped that the Agency's role would be strengthened until the achievement of a final settlement in the Middle East.

34. His delegation welcomed the transfer of the Agency's headquarters by the end of 1995 to the Gaza Strip. Such a transfer was essential and would help increase coordination between UNRWA and the Palestinian Authority. The Agency was predicting a shortfall of US$ 43 million and had been forced to make cutbacks. Like other States, Oman requested the United Nations to cover the costs of the transfer.

35. Since the signing of the Declaration of Principles by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, there had been significant progress, in particular the signing of the Israeli-Jordanian peace treaty. Such progress augured well for the future of the peace process, the goal of which was to achieve a final settlement of the Middle East problem, in particular the problem of refugees. In his report (A/49/13), the Commissioner-General had given a

positive account of the changes taking place in the Middle East, especially in the areas under Palestinian control. He called on all the parties involved to comply with their obligations and work in the interests of stability and security. That pertained particularly to Israel which, under General Assembly resolution 194 (III), was obliged to guarantee the return of refugees. Peace would not be complete as long as the problem of Palestine refugees remained and those refugees continued to suffer.

36. His delegation had taken note of donor countries' support for the Agency's programmes; such support would continue to be needed. The Omani Government had always provided UNRWA with material and moral support.

37. Mr. AL KHULEEFAH (Kuwait) expressed his appreciation to the Commissioner-General and his staff for their continuing humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian refugees, who were still living in conditions of occupation, despite the recent historic achievements. He hoped that those achievements would ultimately lead to a definitive settlement of the Middle East problem.

38. Commenting on the Commissioner-General's report (A/49/13), he noted with regret that, as indicated in chapter VIII, there continued to be disruptions in the work of educational establishments in the West Bank because of action by the Israeli administration. In that regard, the Agency should be commended for having arranged to distribute self-learning materials among the pupils. The fact that UNRWA had delivered primary health care services to over 500,000 Palestinian refugees in the West Bank should also be commended.

39. Turning to chapter IX of the report, he expressed great appreciation for the work being conducted by UNRWA in education in the self-rule area of the Gaza Strip, particularly with regard to improving the qualifications of education staff. The Agency also deserved praise for the health-care service established in five large camps and in Gaza town.

40. Mention should also be made of the Peace Implementation Programme, which had been modified by the Agency in the light of the evolving situation.

41. Despite the positive achievements in the peace process, it continued to be painful to observe the actions of Israel in the occupied territories mentioned in the report. They included the continuation of arrests and acts of interference with the Agency, which affected the quality of the services provided by UNRWA to the Palestinian refugees.

42. Kuwait had welcomed the signing by Israel and the PLO of the Declaration of Principles as a step towards a comprehensive, just and durable settlement in the Middle East in accordance with Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973). The step-by-step movement towards peace, which had begun in Madrid and in which Kuwait was also participating, would ultimately provide the Palestinians with the possibility of establishing an independent State in their own land, ensure the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the occupied territories, and enable the refugees to return home in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 194 (III), paragraph 11.

43. Owing to the need to strengthen what had been achieved, Kuwait had taken part in the meeting of donor countries convened at the initiative of the United States on 1 October 1993. At that meeting, Kuwait had pledged a contribution of $25 million for development projects in the self-rule areas under the supervision of a specialized international body. Kuwait would continue to provide support to the Agency, including aid in the form of voluntary contributions to the UNRWA budget. Kuwait's current contribution amounted to $1.5 million.

44. In conclusion, he expressed support for the transfer of UNRWA headquarters to the Gaza Strip; the transfer would make it possible to improve the level of services provided by the Agency to Palestinian refugees.

45. Mr. GRIFFIN (Australia) said that his country had warmly welcomed and given full support to the implementation of the Israel-PLO Agreement on self-rule in Gaza and Jericho. For peace to take root, there must be economic development and an improvement in the quality of life of ordinary Palestinians.

46. Australia would again like to acknowledge the central role being played by UNRWA. Its social and humanitarian work had been a significant factor in helping to reduce social and economic pressures, with their potential to exacerbate political tensions in the region. Australia was pleased that UNRWA was cooperating so effectively with the new Palestinian Authority. The Agency's expertise and experience would be an important asset in the process of institution-building which must now be taken forward. He was confident that the Agency would respond resourcefully and effectively to the new demands and challenges of Palestinian self-rule.

47. Australia supported the proposed transfer of UNRWA's headquarters to Gaza as a means of demonstrating the international community's commitment to the peace process, and also for the benefits the move should bring to Gaza. At the same time, it was important to ensure that any adverse implications of the move for UNRWA's operational efficiency were minimized, and that UNRWA would continue to give due weight to the problems of Palestinian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic.

48. Australia was concerned at the financial difficulties experienced by UNRWA, and called upon all Member States to provide adequate financial backing for UNRWA programmes. For its part, Australia had maintained its position as a major contributor to UNRWA's project budget, and had managed to provide a significant increase in its total contributions during 1993/94. Over the next three years, Australian funding for UNRWA's core programme and special projects would, together with the emergency relief it was providing, exceed 11 million Australian dollars. That represented most of its $15 million pledge for economic development in the occupied territories at the international donors' conference in October 1993.

49. He concluded by paying tribute to the Commissioner-General of UNRWA and to his staff for their professionalism and dedication under difficult and trying circumstances.

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50. Mr. DOUDECH (Tunisia) said that, since the signing of the Declaration of Principles, there had been significant progress which would have a beneficial effect on the work of UNRWA and also on the peace process in the Middle East as a whole.

51. He paid tribute to UNRWA for its untiring efforts to improve the living conditions of the Palestinians and refugees and for its contribution to establishing peace in the Middle East. In that connection, he wished to commend the cooperation and coordination between UNRWA and the Palestinians, which were in keeping with the objectives of an agenda for development.

52. His delegation noted the important role played by the Agency in the process of the transfer of power to the Palestinian authorities in the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area and welcomed its efforts in the social and economic sphere, which could help to strengthen the peace process in the region. Tunisia believed that the international community should give the Agency all possible support and assistance so that it could overcome the difficulties in the way of the execution of its projects.

53. Tunisia supported the decision to transfer the headquarters of UNRWA to the Gaza Strip since the administrative costs could thus be reduced and the resources saved could be directed towards the execution of social and economic development projects.

54. Noting that Tunisia had participated in the work of multilateral organs and their efforts to promote rapid progress in the peace process, he expressed his delegation's firm intention of continuing to provide assistance to UNRWA to help it to attain its high ideals and its hope that the Agency would overcome the difficulties facing it so that it would continue in the future to contribute to the process of establishing peace in the Middle East.

55. Mr. Hudyma (Chairman) took the Chair.

56. Mr. KARSGAARD (Canada) thanked the Commissioner-General and the entire staff of UNRWA who, in difficult and often dangerous conditions, continued to work to improve the situation of refugees, develop infrastructure and execute projects in the health, education and social services fields in the occupied territories and refugee camps.

57. Canada applauded the further progress made during the current year in the peace process, in particular the signing of the Agreements on the Gaza Strip and the Jericho Area and the conclusion of the Peace Treaty between Jordan and Israel, and it looked forward to similar breakthroughs in the negotiations with the Syrian Arab Republic and Lebanon.

58. He was pleased to note the Agency's active participation in the Working Group on Refugees, the Chairman of which was Canadian. In April 1994, with the active support of UNRWA, Canadian officials had led an international delegation to meet with representatives of refugees in camps in Jordan and Lebanon. On the basis of the mission's conclusions, the participants in the latest meeting of the Working Group on Refugees had stressed that refugees in Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic should not be overlooked and that the regional

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perspective must remain an integral part of the Group's mandate and activities. For its part, Canada had provided additional financial support for measures to improve the situation of refugees in Jordan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Lebanon, and had allocated $1.4 million to fund measures relating to the return to the Gaza Strip of refugee families expelled into the Sinai Peninsula.

59. Canada, which was concerned by the chronic funding shortfall faced by the Agency, had been pressing on both the bilateral and the multilateral levels for increased support for the activities of UNRWA, in particular the Peace Implementation Programme. It was especially important that countries should contribute generously to the budget of UNRWA at the current stage when the Palestinian authorities were being established.

60. At the same time, progress in the peace process had had an impact on the future role of UNRWA. The Agency's responsibilities would have to be transferred gradually to the new Palestinian authorities and to that end UNRWA must continue to work in close cooperation with the new Palestinian institutions.

61. Referring to the decision of the Secretary-General to transfer the headquarters of UNRWA to the Gaza Strip, he said that, in his delegation's view, the transfer should not divert financial resources from essential UNRWA operations elsewhere and that the interests of refugees outside the occupied territories should not be neglected in the peace process.

62. Canada would continue to assist the Agency and would make every effort to support the Agreement on the Gaza Strip and the Jericho Area and the Peace Treaty between Jordan and Israel.

63. Noting that the issue of refugees was central to the Arab-Israeli conflict, he said that UNRWA and the international community must work in close cooperation to ensure that Palestinian refugees participated fully in the new future of the Middle East.

64. Mr. SHAKED (Israel) thanked the Commissioner-General and the staff of UNRWA for their annual report on the work of the Agency and for the spirit of cooperation and the good working relationship which had prevailed between the Agency and the Government of Israel during the period under review.

65. Referring to the report of the Commissioner-General, he said that the positive steps towards the realization of peace described in the report had had a profound impact on the relationship between Israel and the Palestinians and on the relationship between Israel and some of its Arab neighbours in general. Israel also noted the Commissioner-General's words of appreciation to the Government of Israel for initiating proposals for the improvement of arrangements relating to UNRWA operations in the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area. He expressed his country's genuine desire to improve mutual relations with the Agency since, in the new reality which had developed in the Middle East, UNRWA had an even more important role to play in promoting the social and economic advancement envisioned in the Agreements between Israel and the PLO.

66. Israel took issue with the way in which various incidents that had taken place in the territories during the year under review were described in the report and also with the inclusion in the report of political issues, which were outside the mandate of UNRWA. In the light of the significant progress that had been achieved in the peace process, Israel considered it essential, now more than ever, that the General Assembly, in its resolutions concerning UNRWA, should focus on issues directly related to the Agency's humanitarian tasks and refrain from adopting resolutions concerning political issues which were irrelevant to the work of UNRWA and were detached from the new reality in the region. In that connection, his delegation believed that the number of resolutions on UNRWA should be considerably reduced. That would be in keeping with the need to rationalize the work of the General Assembly and would avoid references to issues such as Jerusalem, refugees and settlements which would be dealt with within the framework of the negotiations on permanent status, as agreed between Israel and the PLO.

67. Mr. TURKMEN (Commissioner-General of UNRWA) thanked all those who had spoken favourably about the work of UNRWA and assured them that the Agency would continue to strive to justify the confidence which had been placed in it.

The meeting rose at 12 noon.

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General Assembly
FORTY-NINTH SESSION
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SPECIAL POLITICAL AND
DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEE
(FOURTH COMMITTEE)
18th meeting
held on
Monday, 7 November 1994
at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 18th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. HUDYMA (Ukraine)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 76: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (A/49/20, A/49/280)

AGENDA ITEM 147: QUESTION OF THE REVIEW OF THE AGREEMENT GOVERNING THE ACTIVITIES OF STATES ON THE MOON AND OTHER CELESTIAL BODIES (A/49/141)

1. The CHAIRMAN, recalling that two years previously the international community had celebrated International Space Year, said that many of the cooperative activities launched as part of the Year were continuing and the momentum given to international cooperation in space activities was accelerating. Over the past year, the international community had continued its efforts to address ways in which space technology could be used to enhance international security in all its forms - political, economic, social and environmental. A central concept of the post-cold-war era was that all forms of security were interrelated and could not be considered in isolation from each other. There was now an opportunity to enhance and revitalize cooperation in space activities so that new policies and programmes for the innovative use of space technologies could be developed.

2. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary bodies were the Organization's main tools for responding to the changing international environment as it related to the exploration and utilization of outer space. They had succeeded in developing the entire body of international space law consisting of five international treaties and four sets of principles. In accordance with article 18 of the Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, the General Assembly needed to take up the question of the review of the Agreement at its current session. That was particularly fitting on the thirty-third anniversary of the first manned flight into outer space and the twenty-fifth anniversary of the first manned lunar landing.

3. Mr. HOHENFELLNER (Chairman, Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space), introducing the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the work of its thirty-seventh session (A/49/20), said that the end of the cold war had undoubtedly increased the opportunities for meaningful cooperation in space between former rivals. Greater use of space technology in a cooperative manner would result in increased security benefits to the international community. The report covered the following main areas: ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes; the report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the work of its thirty-first session and implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE 82); the report of the Legal Subcommittee on the work of its thirty-third session; and spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status. In addition to those main areas, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had also discussed the possibility of convening a third United Nations Conference on the

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Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space; its own methods of work and those of its subsidiary bodies; and the possibility of increasing its membership.

4. During its consideration of the report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the work of its thirty-first session and implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE 82, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had dealt with such important matters as the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, coordination of space activities within the United Nations system, remote sensing of the Earth by satellites, Earth and space environment, and the use of nuclear power sources in outer space. For the first time, as part of the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, it had also dealt with the issue of space debris.

5. At its eighth session, the Working Group of the Whole to Evaluate the Implementation of the Recommendations of UNISPACE 82 had concluded that, while some progress had been made, many recommendations had not been implemented and much work remained to be done before they would be. The Working Group had felt, in particular, that further efforts to promote the applications of space science and technology for development should be made in the following four areas: stimulating the growth of indigenous nuclei and an autonomous technological base in space technology in the developing countries; promoting a greater exchange of actual experiences with space applications; United Nations funding; and voluntary contributions. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had noted with appreciation the financial contributions made by the Governments of Austria and Pakistan and also by a number of organizations.

6. After considering the question of convening a third UNISPACE conference, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had agreed that such a conference could be convened in the near future and that, before a recommendation was made for the date of the conference, there should be a consensus recommendation on the agenda, venue and funding of the conference. It had noted that the reports submitted by various bodies had helped it fulfil its role as a focal point for international cooperation in outer space, especially with respect to the practical applications of space science and technology in developing countries. It had recognized the importance of ongoing international efforts to ensure the continuity, compatibility and complementarity of remote-sensing systems and had noted their value for environmental monitoring.

7. After considering the question of the use of nuclear power sources in outer space, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had agreed that the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 47/68 of 14 December 1992, should remain in their current form until amended and that before amendment, proper consideration should be given to the aims and objectives of any proposed revision. It had expressed satisfaction that the subject of space debris was finally a separate agenda item on the agenda of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and had agreed that there was a need for further research concerning space debris and that it was important to have a firm scientific and technical basis for future action on the complex attributes of space debris.

8. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had taken note of the progress achieved by China, India, Japan, the Russian Federation, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and the European Space Agency in the various space transportation system programmes in operation or planned. It had also considered such questions as the examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit; matters relating to life sciences, including space medicine; progress in the geosphere-biosphere (global change) programme; matters relating to planetary exploration; and matters relating to astronomy. It had endorsed the theme fixed for special attention at the 1995 session of the Subcommittee - "Application of space technology for education, with particular emphasis on its use in developing countries". It had expressed appreciation to the Committee on Space Research and the International Astronautical Federation for their support of the Subcommittee's work and for the symposium they had conducted on the 1994 theme "Space applications for disaster prevention, warning, mitigation and relief". On the matter of the space and Earth environments, it had decided to further request the Commission on Sustainable Development to bring to the notice of its members the useful role of space technology and its applications in assisting sustainable development.

9. With regard to the work of the Legal Subcommittee, he said that after many years of difficult negotiations the General Assembly, in resolution 47/68 of 14 December 1992, had adopted the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space. In accordance with those Principles, the Subcommittee had re-established its Working Group in order to review and discuss possible revisions to the Principles. After a preliminary exchange of views, the Working Group had concluded that its consideration of the Principles should be suspended for one year, pending the results of the work in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

10. The Subcommittee had considered a number of working papers with regard to the definition and delimitation of outer space but there had been no progress in resolving the differences between those delegations that considered the definition and delimitation of airspace and outer space to be a practical and legal necessity and those delegations that maintained that there was no need to establish such a boundary.

11. In its consideration of questions relating to the geostationary orbit, the Working Group had based its discussion on a working paper that took into account earlier "working non-papers" and the views and suggestions expressed by many delegations at previous sessions of the Subcommittee. He noted with regret that although the exchange of views on substantive issues had been characterized by a constructive and positive atmosphere, there was still a wide gulf between the positions of Member States on the issue.

12. The Legal Subcommittee had achieved substantive progress in its discussions on the question of the benefits deriving from the exploration and utilization of outer space. The Working Group on that item had conducted in-depth discussions based on a working paper submitted by a number of countries of the Group of 77.

13. All delegations had agreed that spin-offs from space technology were continuing to yield substantial practical benefits in a wide variety of fields and scientific disciplines. The most promising of them were industrial measurement and control, image and data processing, medicine, computer systems, robotics, special materials, chemicals and water treatment and refrigeration. The Committee agreed that there was a strong need to examine ways to expand and strengthen international cooperation in the field of spin-off benefits of space technology in order to ensure that all countries, in particular the developing countries, had equal access to those technologies. In that connection, the Committee had expressed its satisfaction that the United Nations Programme on Space Applications was planning to hold, under the aegis of the United Nations and the United States of America, an international workshop on spin-off benefits of space technology.

14. Many countries welcomed the Committee's discussion of the question of enlarging its membership and the opportunity to take part in its constructive activities. The Committee had agreed with the proposal of its Chairman that its membership should be enlarged by not more than eight Member States, and that its enlargement should be regionally balanced and based on proposals of the various interested regional groups.

15. The current year marked the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies and, in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement, the question of its review had been included in the provisional agenda of the General Assembly. The Committee had come to the conclusion that because the Agreement had so far been ratified by only nine Member States and signed by five others, any possible revision of its provisions should be conducted with prudence and only on the basis of consultation with Member States. Accordingly, the Committee had recommended that the General Assembly should refrain from taking any decision on the question of the possibility of revising the Agreement at its forty-ninth session.

16. The Committee had agreed to continue constructively to discuss the question of the convening of a third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE). The Secretary-General had called upon the United Nations and the specialized agencies to develop new policies and programmes for the use of space technologies in the post-cold-war era. It was essential to use the possibility of convening a third UNISPACE conference in order jointly to formulate new policies and programmes and to ensure that the benefits deriving from the development of space technology could be shared by all countries, including the developing countries. Space technology could be the key to solving such major contemporary problems as environmental degradation and the need for sustainable development.

17. Mr. AHAMED (India) said that India had taken part in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space from the very early stages of the development of space technology, with the goal of using achievements in that sphere to guarantee faster social and economic development. During the previous year India had passed several major milestones. On 4 May 1994 India had launched an

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ASLV-D4 launch vehicle, which had successfully placed into a low-earth inclined orbit a 130-kilogram SROSS-C2 scientific satellite designed to carry out astronomical observations and to investigate the Earth's atmosphere. The second major milestone had been the successful launch, on 15 October 1994, of the PSLV-D2 rocket, which had placed into orbit an 804-kilogram Indian remote-sensing satellite. The satellite had already been tested in orbit, and its research equipment was functioning normally. Indian remote-sensing satellites were used for major national economic applications, including that of ensuring rational management of natural resources. The data received from those satellites were used in particular for agriculture, fisheries, soil and water resources management, forestry and nature conservation. Other major spheres of application for space technology in India included telecommunications, television, meteorology, disaster warning and search and rescue operations. Those applications were supported by the INSAT series of satellites, which operated in geostationary orbits. The launch of the next satellite in that series, INSAT-2C, was scheduled during the coming year. Data received from the Indian remote-sensing satellites was made available to users in many countries.

18. The Indian space programme promoted the development of international cooperation in the field of the peaceful uses of outer space through the pursuit of bilateral cooperation with several other space agencies and through active participation in relevant international forums. Recently, India had actively participated in the Ministerial Conference on Space Technology Applications for Development in Asia and the Pacific, held in Beijing. The 19th Asian Conference on Remote Sensing was scheduled to be held in Bangalore, India, in November 1994.

19. His delegation was pleased to note that the Committee agreed that it was necessary to convene a third UNISPACE conference and that prior to recommending a date for such a conference, there should be a consensus recommendation on its agenda, venue and funding. He reiterated India's proposal to host the conference.

20. His delegation was pleased to note the progress achieved in the consideration of another important subject, namely the question of space debris, which had recently been added to the agenda of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. Speedy progress on that subject would make it possible to minimize the risk of collision between space objects and debris. It was essential to give priority attention to the Committee's various recommendations on the subject. In the Legal Subcommittee some progress had been made on all agenda items; he expressed the hope that in the future speedier progress would be possible in that Subcommittee.

21. Ms. VARGAS (Nicaragua), noting the changes that had recently occurred in the world, said that it must now be acknowledged that progress in the scientific, technical, social and economic fields could no longer be achieved at the expense of the poorest sectors of the world's population. Technology must not be the exclusive prerogative of the developed countries: it must be accessible to all, including the developing countries. The application of scientific and technical achievements to the establishment of a new climate of

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international cooperation, which would ensure the broadest possible use of outer space for peaceful purposes, was possible only on the basis of concerted international efforts. Space technology must be developed and applied not only in the context of scientific and technical research, but also with a view to meeting the many requirements of the developing countries in areas such as training of specialists, remote sensing, environmental protection and telecommunications.

22. Her delegation had studied with interest the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the work of its thirty-seventh session (A/49/20). In its resolution 48/39 of 10 December 1993 the General Assembly had requested the Committee to continue to consider, as a matter of priority, ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes. Her delegation noted with satisfaction that during the debate on that question the Committee had acknowledged the need to give special consideration to international cooperation on the utilization of space technology for information on disasters and provision of relief. Nicaragua considered the Committee's decision to take account of the conclusions of the First and Second Space Conferences of the Americas, held in Costa Rica in 1990 and in Chile in 1993, to be extremely important. The declarations of those conferences stressed the importance of cooperation agreements as a means of solving the problems encountered by the countries of Latin America, particularly problems of environmental degradation.

23. At its session, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee had considered the study prepared by the Secretariat on space applications for forest resource management, and it was to be hoped that the recommendations contained therein would be taken into account by the Subcommittee during implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE 82).

24. In view of the importance to the developing countries of the possibility of utilizing remote-sensing systems to monitor the environment, the Committee's appeal to Member States and international agencies to continue the practice of free distribution of meteorological information should be supported. The need for assistance to the developing countries in that area had also been recognized in the analytical report prepared by the Secretariat on the role that the Committee could play in view of the decisions and recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

25. It should be recalled that at the time of the Committee's establishment, 35 years previously, emphasis had been placed on the special role it had to play in the field of science and technology. Currently, there were increasingly frequent calls for an intensification of that work, but at the same time, having regard to the need to establish a new system of international security, it was necessary to adopt a more pragmatic and patient approach, so as to enable the Committee to make use of the results of the work of the Conference on Disarmament and of the First Committee of the General Assembly in areas such as use of nuclear power sources in outer space and the programme to avert an arms race in outer space.

26. At present the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, the Legal Subcommittee, and also the Committee itself were showing ever greater solidarity with the developing countries on matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellites, life sciences and the environment. Nicaragua considered that one of the most important ways of regulating joint work in those directions would be the elaboration of legal principles ensuring that developed and developing countries alike had access to space activities and the benefits associated therewith. Her delegation noted with satisfaction the contribution made by the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to the work of the Committee on widely different aspects of the peaceful uses of outer space. Practical expressions of that contribution were the convening in Peru of the United Nations Regional Workshop on Remote Sensing Applications of Radar Technology to Environmental and Natural Resources Sciences, the readiness of the Government of Ecuador to contribute to regional cooperation in connection with the operation of the satellite ground receiving station at Cotopaxi and the management and financing of the station, and also the effective work of the Government of Chile as pro tempore secretariat in following up the recommendations of the Second Space Conference of the Americas. Furthermore, Nicaragua awaited with great interest the establishment in the Latin American region of the Centre for Space Science and Technology Education and noted with satisfaction that Brazil and Mexico had concluded negotiations on that question. She also wished to thank the Secretariat for its recommendation concerning the holding of a United Nations Regional Conference on Space Technology for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

27. Outer space was the property of all humankind, and participation in the Committee's work by all countries, both developed and developing, was thus of crucial importance. In that context she commended the decision of the Committee to enlarge its membership from 1995, and said that Nicaragua, whose candidature had been supported by the Latin American regional group, hoped to be elected a member of the Committee in the course of the current session of the General Assembly.

The meeting rose at 11.45 a.m.

UNITED NATIONS
General Assembly
FORTY-NINTH SESSION
Official Records

SPECIAL POLITICAL AND
DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEE
(FOURTH COMMITTEE)
19th meeting
held on
Wednesday, 9 November 1994
at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 19th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. HUDYMA (Ukraine)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 76: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (continued) (A/49/20, A/49/280, A/49/381)

AGENDA ITEM 147: QUESTION OF THE REVIEW OF THE AGREEMENT GOVERNING THE ACTIVITIES OF STATES ON THE MOON AND OTHER CELESTIAL BODIES (continued) (A/49/141)

1. Mr. RIBEIRO (Brazil) said that on 10 February 1994 the Brazilian Congress had enacted legislation creating the Brazilian space agency. With that initiative, the coordination of Brazilian space activities had been transferred to the Ministry of Science and Technology, and that would reinforce the non-military character of Brazil's space programme. His Government, after careful consideration, had also announced that it would follow the guidelines of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR).

2. In the framework of the Brazilian space programme, an SCD-1 satellite, the first of a series of data relaying devices, had been launched in early 1993. SCD-2 was scheduled to be launched in 1995 and resources had been approved for SCD-3. His Government was also undertaking the development of micro-satellites of the ECO-8 series which would be deployed in low equatorial orbits. Furthermore, in cooperation with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), in the framework of the Guará project, 33 sounding and meteorological rockets had been launched from the launching base of Alcantara, situated in the northern part of Brazil.

3. The general debate provided a good opportunity to take stock of the work performed by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) and its subcommittees. With regard to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, his delegation appreciated the tireless efforts undertaken by the Expert on Space Applications and the staff of the Office for Outer Space Affairs who, despite the meagre resources available, were carrying out the activities of the United Nations in that domain. In that respect, voluntary contributions, particularly from space Powers, were very important for the successful implementation of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications. His Government would continue to support that Programme through the offer of long-term scholarships.

4. Regional centres for science, technology and education were of great interest to his Government. Recent meetings between the Office for Outer Space Affairs, the Office of Legal Affairs and the delegations of Mexico and Brazil would no doubt contribute to settling a few outstanding legal issues associated with the establishment of a regional centre for Latin America and the Caribbean.

5. The issue of space debris had been introduced in the agenda of the Scientific and Technological Subcommittee for the first time. His delegation hoped that speedy progress in the consideration of that question would pave the way for introducing the matter in the Legal Subcommittee with a view to the progressive development of international space law.

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6. His delegation believed that the debate on working paper A/AC.105/C.2/L.182/Rev.1 had been constructive and positive, and that there were no fundamental differences among delegations that could not be reconciled through constructive debate. His delegation intended, in active consultation with the sponsors, to submit a revised version of the document to the Legal Subcommittee at its thirty-fourth session.

7. At the most recent session of the Legal Subcommittee, delegations had agreed on the need to address the questions of the agenda and the duration of sessions simultaneously. In the view of his delegation, the method of work agreed upon in 1994, based on a flexible approach, should be followed.

8. His delegation welcomed the agreement reached on increasing the membership of COPUOS by not more than eight States. It was very important that the appointments should be made by consensus so as to enable the President of the General Assembly to appoint the new members without a vote. As to the question of a third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE), his delegation associated itself with the decision taken at the meeting of COPUOS that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee should carry out a thorough analysis and define a sharply focused agenda, and should also consider alternative means of reaching the same goals. Those recommendations were in line with his delegation's position that the success of such an important undertaking depended not only on the support provided by Member States, in particular the space Powers, but also on a well-conducted preparatory process.

9. Finally, his delegation supported the recommendation of COPUOS that no action was required from the General Assembly to revise the Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, as provided for in article 18 of that Agreement.

10. Mr. REY (Colombia) said that his delegation wished to refer specifically to a number of items which were being considered by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Colombia had always supported the idea of including the question of space debris in the agenda of COPUOS, since that problem had serious consequences for the development of space technology. In that connection, it noted with satisfaction that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee had already taken up the item. However, Colombia believed that the item should also be taken up by the Legal Subcommittee, since space debris gave rise not only to technical problems but also to problems regarding the formulation of the relevant legal norms. That work should be carried out only after studying the scientific and technical aspects of the problem.

11. With regard to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space, his delegation supported the Principles adopted by the General Assembly in 1992 and felt that they should not be revised at the current stage since no changes had taken place which would give rise to the need for such revision.

12. Colombia's position on the question of the definition and delimitation of outer space was well known. It had always been in favour of an early definition

of the boundary between airspace and outer space, and also of reaching consensus on the question of establishing the perigee of the orbit of artificial Earth satellites, which should be 100 kilometres. His delegation welcomed the document submitted by the Russian Federation setting out a new approach to the question of the definition and delimitation of outer space. It hoped that the working group of the Legal Subcommittee would continue its work on the problem and formulate the relevant criteria in an expeditious manner.

13. Colombia also supported all the efforts made in the Committee to bring about the full entry into force of the provisions of the 1967 Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, relating to the utilization of outer space for peaceful purposes for the benefit of all mankind, taking into account the needs of developing countries. Furthermore, he noted the importance of the spin-off benefits of space technology for countries which did not have sufficient resources and possibilities for research and development in that area.

14. Colombia attached great importance to the question of the geostationary orbit as a limited natural resource. The legal basis governing activities in that field had practically not been elaborated. Provisions relating to it had, for the first time, been set forth in article 33 of the 1973 Malaga-Torremolinos treaty. Since then, the international community had been endeavouring to define the basic characteristics of the geostationary orbit and draw up rules governing equitable access to it. In 1993, Colombia had submitted a paper on this question (A/AC.105/C.2/L.192) to the Legal Subcommittee's working group. The main objective of the paper was to draw up the legal basis for equitable use of the geostationary orbit. In that connection, it should be stressed that article 33 of the Nairobi International Telecommunication Union Convention referred to the need to guarantee to all States equitable access to the orbit. Nevertheless, there was a need to distinguish between principles of equity and fairness, and the paper submitted by Colombia placed particular emphasis precisely on the principle of fairness, which, inter alia, provided for the establishment of a special preferential regime for the countries that still did not have access to the geostationary orbit. Implementation of that principle would make it possible to ensure much fairer allocation of positions in the orbit, with account taken of the other principles laid down in ITU agreements.

15. Colombia attached particular importance to a third United Nations conference on the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space. There was a need, however, to determine in advance its agenda items and tasks in order to ensure the successful holding of the conference. In view of the current state of technological development and the work carried out by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subcommittees, discussion of the corresponding agenda items at the Conference should be at the highest level.

16. Lastly, Colombia welcomed the fact that agreement had been reached on the question of enlarging the membership of the Outer Space Committee. That would further enable various countries to participate in discussing such an extremely important issue as the use of outer space. Nevertheless, attention should be

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drawn to the need not to set a precedent in that area which might run counter to provisions of the Charter of the United Nations. Enlarging the membership of any given body was a matter to be dealt with by the General Assembly.

17. Mr. KONG (China) said that more and more countries, including developing ones, had been attaching increasing importance to the application of space technology. In the past year, the Outer Space Committee and its related bodies had, with the support of Governments concerned and international organizations, carried out international cooperation activities, including the holding of training courses, workshops and seminars. A great deal of technical consultancy services had been provided to States, particularly developing countries, thus contributing to the coordination of space activities and the success of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications.

18. China's outer space activities had continued to develop steadily in the past year. It had successfully launched a scientific experimental satellite, Practice 4, and international satellites, Asia-Pacific 1 and Oputus B3, for overseas customers. It also planned to launch the Dong Fang Hong 3 communications satellite.

19. China attached great importance to space technology and its application. At the present time, space technology had been extensively employed in fields such as machine-building, metallurgy, the chemical industry, energy, the production of materials, transport and medical treatment. His country also gave much attention to the application of advanced space technology for various purposes such as disaster monitoring and forecasting, imminent earthquake prediction, combating agricultural pests, as well as desertification monitoring.

20. From 14 to 18 September 1994, the Chinese Government, in cooperation with the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs and the European Space Agency had held a workshop on microwave remote-sensing applications. From 19 to 24 September 1994, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) had convened a ministerial meeting in Beijing on the application of space technology for development. The meeting had adopted three documents, including the Beijing Declaration on ESCAP space technology for environmentally sound and sustainable development, thereby promoting the exchange of information on the policies of States on the application of space technology, the coordination of relevant space application plans, and the enhancement of regional cooperation in that field.

21. In 1994, China was continuing the practice of awarding two one-year fellowships to trainees from developing countries in the fields of remote sensing, cartography and satellite geodesy. His delegation was pleased to note that more and more States hoped to participate in the Committee's work, which demonstrated the importance that States attached to the development of space technology and its application for peaceful purposes. Enlarging the Outer Space Committee's membership would further promote the development and application of space technology and extensive international cooperation. The Chinese delegation also supported the proposal to hold a third United Nations conference

on the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space in order to improve coordination of outer space activities and international cooperation.

22. Mr. DIMITROV (Bulgaria) said that at the current time the international climate was offering better chances for further progress in various fields of international cooperation, including the peaceful uses of outer space. Thirty-five years had passed since the establishment of COPUOS, the first permanent and broadly representative intergovernmental body in that field. The rapid development of technology and means of transport had made it possible to achieve impressive progress in space research and the development of applied components that had a direct impact on peoples' lives. Since space research required not only considerable knowledge but also significant financial resources, it was nearly impossible for any single State to explore outer space and, for that reason, international cooperation was a necessary condition for success in the peaceful uses of outer space.

23. Bulgaria supported limited enlargement of the membership of COPUOS on the basis of a consensus decision. The progress achieved by that Committee gave rise to expectations for further enhancing its activities in addressing outstanding issues. COPUOS should focus its attention on the use of space science and technology in monitoring and exploring the environment. Special attention should be given to the issue of protecting the space environment and to the problem of space debris.

24. The important role of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications in promoting broader cooperation in space science and technology had been clearly demonstrated in practice. The Programme should continue to focus on long-term, task-oriented training in space technology and specific application areas. The holding of meetings, training courses, seminars and conferences in 1995 would enhance the more comprehensive application of space technologies in line with the needs of all countries and facilitate the access of developing countries to such technologies.

25. Bulgaria had become the eighteenth Member State to conduct space research activities, the sixth to participate in manned space-flight programmes and the third to produce space foods. The profound changes that had taken place in his country's political, economic and social life were also having an impact on science and applied research, forcing scientific research institutions to streamline their institutional basis and financing and management methods. It was quite obvious that during that period the establishment of national space agencies should be speeded up by using the experience of the leading space nations. Those agencies should promote cooperation both on a bilateral and a multilateral basis in order to integrate countries into international space organizations. The Bulgarian Aerospace Agency (BASA) had been set up at the end of 1993 and was currently in the process of establishing contacts with all national space agencies as well as the European Space Agency (ESA) and the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs. Cooperation agreements had been signed with the Russian Space Agency (RSA). BASA was also working with NASA on contracts in the manufacture of space equipment and in carrying out experiments.

26. Mr. KYRYCHENKO (Ukraine) said that the history of the past few decades demonstrated the close links between social and economic progress and the peaceful uses of the unique achievements of space science and technology. The demilitarization of space and the humanization of space activities were yielding considerable results, with a concomitant decrease in expenditure on the military programmes of the leading space nations and an increasing orientation of space activities towards the solution of the urgent problems facing humankind. A key role in that effort was played by COPUOS and Ukraine welcomed its strategy as set forth in the report on its thirty-seventh session.

27. Following the UNISPACE-82 recommendations on expanding cooperation and exchange of experience in the application of space technology and on space personnel training, two centres of science and technology had been opened in Ukraine, the International Centre for Science and Technology and the Faculty of Aerospace Technology at the Kiev Polytechnical Institute. In connection with the work conducted under the auspices of the Organization on the use of aerospace remote systems for the solution of urgent environmental problems, the rational use of natural resources, the forecasting of adverse natural phenomena and the prevention of disasters due to technology, Ukraine suggested that consideration should be given to the establishment of an international project for the study from outer space of the impact of the Chernobyl nuclear power station accident on the environment.

28. As for the question of space applications for the prevention and early warning of natural disasters, the elimination of their consequences and the provision of emergency relief, the "Warning" project under way in Ukraine envisaged the creation of a satellite system for the monitoring of seismic activity and the forecasting of earthquakes. In addition, close attention was being given in Ukraine to space biology and space medicine, which could become the subject of bilateral or multilateral projects. Ukraine's scientific and technological potential and the level of its scientific and research infrastructure enabled it to work on a programme for the development of a new generation of shuttle-type vehicles for the delivery of payloads to outer space, which would require no space-vehicle launch site and could launch space vehicles from any point on the globe.

29. Mr. KOLATEK (Czech Republic) expressed his appreciation to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee for the level of its technical presentations. Those presentations were important in enhancing the scientific and technical character of the Subcommittee's work. He also thanked the United Nations Programme on Space Applications for the meetings it had held in a number of countries and the various workshops, training courses and regional conferences it had organized. The coordination of work on space matters among the specialized agencies of the United Nations system was also highly satisfactory.

30. Although the Czech Republic had only a few small scientific satellites in orbit, it was interested in the protection of circumterrestrial space from space debris and in the maintenance of a reasonable level of safety for space operations. As for the proposal on the holding of a third UNISPACE conference, his delegation noted that many countries were interested in holding the

conference within the next few years. At the same time, he stressed the need for a substantive agenda which would deal with specific issues relating to the application of space science and technology. The Czech Republic would not support an agenda consisting of general topics since each application of space technology required a specific approach, and a general discussion at the conference might lead only to general conclusions.

31. Following the successful conclusion of its work on the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, two years earlier, the Legal Subcommittee had considered the possibility of an early review of those Principles. Since there was no immediate need for such a review, the Subcommittee should propose new items for its future agenda. Both Subcommittees should consider ways of enhancing the effectiveness of their work. His delegation therefore favoured dispensing with the general exchange of views in the Subcommittees. In addition, reviews of national activities would perhaps be better dealt with in the relevant documents or technical materials, rather than in formal statements delivered during the sessions. In conclusion, he supported the draft resolution prepared by the Austrian delegation in consultation with many other members of COPUOS.

32. Mr. Chong-Ha YOO (Republic of Korea) said that in 1994 his Government had been able to participate as an observer in the meetings of COPUOS and its two Subcommittees. That had given his delegation an opportunity to gain close first-hand knowledge of the Committee's work and to determine the areas which interested it most.

33. The Republic of Korea welcomed the agreement reached at the thirty-seventh session of COPUOS on the possibility of convening a third UNISPACE conference in the near future. Clearly, the objectives and other important details of that conference would need to be carefully worked out before a final decision was taken. His country also noted with satisfaction that in 1994 COPUOS had held extensive discussions on the issue of space debris and it believed that consideration of that issue by COPUOS would help the international community to devise the necessary strategies to minimize the potential impact of space debris on future space activities.

34. In September 1994, the Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Development in Asia and the Pacific had been held in Beijing. The Beijing Declaration adopted at the Conference would play an important role in the development of guidelines and strategies for the promotion of regional cooperation in space applications. In view of the transboundary nature of national and regional problems, regional cooperation and coordination in that area would clearly make the benefits of space technology more cost-effective and accessible for all countries. Another important milestone in the development of regional cooperation had been the establishment, on 25 October 1994, of the Asia Pacific Satellite Communication Council, which had been set up in Seoul as a non-governmental organization to promote regional exchanges and cooperation in the field of satellite communications and broadcasting. Immediately after its establishment, the Council, in close cooperation with the Republic of Korea, had hosted the Asia Pacific Workshop for Satellite Communications for Development.

35. Although the Republic of Korea was a late starter in space activities, it had continually expanded its space capabilities, developing a number of ambitious space development programmes. It had launched two scientific micro-satellites, KITSAT-1 and KITSAT-2, in 1992 and 1993 respectively. From 1990 to 1993 the Korea Aerospace Research Institute had successfully developed the first Korean sounding rocket, the KSR420S. There were plans to launch KOREASAT, a geostationary direct broadcasting and communication satellite, in 1995. Recognition of the need to develop indigenous space capability had led to the establishment of the Satellite Technology Research Centre, which had become the focal point of the country's space development and scientific research programmes. Lastly, he said that his Government looked forward to participating in the work of the Committee as a full member at the earliest feasible time.

36. Mr. RYDBERG (Sweden) said that, as fears over "Star Wars" projects in East and West had receded, more attention was being focused, in the field of space activities, on the twin concerns of non-proliferation and access to peaceful technology. It was widely recognized that knowledge gained from observations from space was crucial to the understanding of global environmental problems.

37. It was against that background that the contribution of the United Nations to international space cooperation should be assessed. In his report on international cooperation in space activities for enhancing security in the post-cold-war era (A/48/221), the Secretary-General had pointed out the dual nature of much of space technology and discussed the challenges and advantages of converting military space technology to civilian use.

38. Another issue of considerable interest raised in the report was how the United Nations system itself should use space applications for the maintenance of international peace and security and for other purposes. As stated in the report, that would require support from Member States and other international organizations. In that connection, the United Nations Programme on Space Applications was setting an excellent example in helping to broaden knowledge and access to space technology.

39. His delegation considered that the past year had been relatively satisfactory for the Committee. Three issues stood out: the initial work on space debris, the attempts to rationalize the work of the Legal Subcommittee, and the preparations for a third UNISPACE Conference. He also expressed his delegation's satisfaction with the agreement reached in the Committee on its enlargement. Sweden looked forward to the speedy appointment of eight new members of the Committee, which would allow four States from his region to be represented.

40. Cleaning up space debris was impracticable, from both the technical and the economic point of view. The problem should therefore be seen as a long-term one, particularly in the most heavily used lower and geostationary orbits. Very useful work had already been done at the latest session of COPUOS as a result of adding space debris to the agenda. Excellent technical presentations had been made, but they had also shown the need for a continued and intensified exchange of information and ideas. He hoped, however, that the preliminary stage of the

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work would not take up too much time. Sweden supported the recommendation that the initial emphasis should be on developing a common understanding of the scientific and technical issues involved and an adequate definition of the problem. A useful first step would be to make an inventory of measures already undertaken to reduce the generation of additional debris.

41. His delegation had for several years stressed the need to rationalize the work of the Legal Subcommittee. It could not accept the idea that the meeting time allocated to any United Nations body should bear no relation to the time actually needed for the work in hand. Meetings should not be used for abstract discussions about the potential importance of the work of any given body. If new items were to be added to the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee, that should be done because of the requirements of international space law, not in order to fill the time allotted. At the present time there was reason to shorten substantially the sessions of the Legal Subcommittee. It was, however, entirely possible, that at a later stage, the Subcommittee would again face a heavy workload, for example, with the possible elaboration of legal norms on issues currently under consideration in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

42. The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee was currently focusing on a thorough analysis and definition of an agenda for a third UNISPACE conference. There were undoubtedly a number of issues which merited the attention of an international high-level forum such as a UNISPACE conference. Sweden had already highlighted a few such issues within COPUOS: space applications to promote sustainable development, particularly in the implementation of Agenda 21; space applications to prevent and mitigate natural disasters; the role of space applications in maintaining international peace and security, including the conversion of military space technology to civilian purposes; and the United Nations and space applications.

43. Ms. ARYSTANBEKOVA (Kazakhstan) said that, with a view to implementing its State policy on the exploration and use of outer space, in 1993 Kazakhstan had established a National Aerospace Agency and had developed and adopted a National Aerospace Programme. On 1 July 1994, during a joint Russian-Kazakh space flight, the second Kazakh cosmonaut, flight engineer Talgat Musabaev, carried out a number of technological experiments, including space biology experiments, remote sensing of the Earth, photography and videotaping of the territory of Kazakhstan and study of the Aral Sea region. The DIZON Scientific and Technical Centre for the Reception and Processing of Space Information, established in April 1994, had facilitated prompt access to space information, and the subsequent launching of its own spacecraft to study natural resources had made possible the centre's integration into the international global surveillance system. Kazakhstan was considering the possibility of participating in programmes carried out by the European Space Agency, and negotiations on its participation in the international programme INTERSAT/B were in the final stage. The first international aerospace exhibition, Aerospace-94, had recently been held in Alma Ata.

44. In July 1994, the Kazakh Parliament had ratified the Agreement between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation on Basic Principles and

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Conditions for the Use of the Baikonur Launch Site. With regard to the training of personnel to service that complex, Kazakhstan had a right to count on assistance from the international community. The problem of ensuring that outer space remained peaceful should be solved not only through the mechanism of disarmament but also by COPUOS, since its work most fully reflected the role of the United Nations in priority questions of the peaceful use of outer space. The Government of Kazakhstan intended to participate actively as a full member in the activities of COPUOS and make its contribution to mutually advantageous cooperation with all countries in the interests and for the benefit of world scientific and technical progress. The successful work of COPUOS in the field of the peaceful uses of outer space depended in large part on how effective it was in uniting international efforts.

45. Mr. ORDZHONIKIDZE (Russian Federation) said that the end of the cold war and the new spirit of partnership between former adversaries afforded unprecedented opportunities to combine the material and intellectual potential of individual countries for the peaceful use of outer space. COPUOS could achieve better results by concentrating its efforts on priority issues, systematizing its items and harmonizing a mechanism for their consideration, and coordinating its activities more closely with the Conference on Disarmament. In that regard, the Chairman of COPUOS should hold working consultations with the bureau of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Conference on Disarmament and together they should draw up an agenda. The adoption of hasty and poorly drafted decisions should be avoided in favour of a considered, balanced approach. It was still too early to hold a review of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space. His delegation supported a more detailed and technical study of that question, especially in the light of the increasing pollution of outer space.

46. With regard to international cooperation in the peaceful exploration of outer space, he noted that joint experiments in space were becoming a regular activity and were involving a growing number of countries. The construction of an international space station with the participation of almost 20 States on different continents was not far off. The United Nations should continue to act as the coordinator and "ideologue" of international space cooperation. There should be constructive dialogue in the Legal Subcommittee on the legal aspects of creating a mechanism for such cooperation. At the current stage, his delegation merely hoped that due consideration would be given to the legal, technical and economic guidelines for new principles for cooperation in the peaceful exploration of outer space. His delegation supported the aspirations of South Africa, Kazakhstan, Cuba and other States to become members of COPUOS. The decision on their admission could be adopted at the current session on the basis of consensus. While constructive consideration of the organizational and other aspects of preparations for the third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should be continued, there was no need to make undue haste to hold the Conference. Cooperation between the Russian Federation and the United Nations in the field of outer space would continue to be a priority of Russian foreign policy.

47. Mr. SANTA PUTRA (Thailand) said that, after the end of the cold war, there had been a significant increase in the activities of COPUOS. At the current stage of international cooperation, COPUOS had a crucial role to play in enhancing international understanding of the potential uses of outer space for science and technology, communications, meteorology and environmental monitoring. In order to help less developed countries benefit from the use and development of space technology, transfers of technologies should be intensified. COPUOS was, to a certain extent, the only multilateral forum where developing countries could air their views and express their needs and requests regarding the use of outer space on an equal footing with developed countries.

48. Thailand had benefited considerably from space-related technologies, especially in the fields of remote sensing, telecommunications and meteorology. In October 1994, Thailand had launched its second telecommunications satellite, THAICOM II, which would help expand the capacity of satellite communication for Thailand and its neighbouring countries. His delegation supported regional efforts to cooperate in the peaceful use of outer space and welcomed the Beijing Declaration, which had been adopted in September 1994. He hoped that, in the near future, regional centres for space science and technology education would be established under United Nations auspices. His delegation reiterated Thailand's full support for that programme and its readiness to act as host for a regional centre in the Asia-Pacific region. His delegation was in favour of the appropriate expansion of membership in COPUOS on the basis of equitable geographical distribution and emphasized its interest in becoming a member of COPUOS. Only collective reason could ensure the appropriate uses of outer space.

49. Mrs. FLORES (Uruguay) said that, since its establishment in 1959, COPUOS had achieved considerable success. The results of research and the application of space technology were becoming more and more accessible to members of the international community, which used them in the interest of social and economic development. Nevertheless, in spite of such efforts, not all countries had been able to benefit fully from space activities. It was necessary to facilitate the exchange of scientific and technological information, strengthen international cooperation programmes and broaden technical assistance to developing countries.

50. In order to ensure the continued peaceful use of outer space, COPUOS should develop norms of international space law that would regulate the practical application of the achievements of space science and technology. Her delegation shared the concern expressed by the Working Group of the Whole that many recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had not been fully implemented. The question of remote sensing of the Earth by satellites should also be mentioned. In that area, considerable efforts had been made to ensure the compatibility and complementarity of remote-sensing systems and promote cooperation between the parties operating the satellites and ground stations, and their users.

51. The practice used in disseminating meteorological information was a striking example of international cooperation, which should be extended to other space-observation data. Space observation was becoming increasingly important

for pinpointing real threats to the environment. The depletion of the ozone layer, climate change, global warming, the loss of natural resources and many other phenomena demonstrated that the environment was a single and indivisible whole that was not limited to the components of the Earth's system. In 1991, her delegation had said that environmental protection issues, in particular, issues that could influence the Earth's environment, should be given particular attention. In that regard, her delegation proposed that a separate item on that issue should be included in the agenda of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and that consideration should be given to the possibility of drafting a convention that would give a prominent place to provisions on the prevention of the pollution of outer space, the establishment of environmental standards and so on.

52. The Legal Subcommittee was considering a number of questions on which it would be advisable to reach agreement. One of those questions dealt with the definition and delimitation of outer space. It was essential to develop a concrete legal regime to regulate the use of the geostationary orbit. The consideration of the legal aspects related to the application of the principle that the exploration and utilization of outer space should be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all States, with particular emphasis on the needs of the developing countries, was in turn related to the question of cooperation, which should yield concrete results. The Preparatory Committee for the third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should step up its work. In that regard, the documents submitted by Pakistan, India, the Group of 77 and the Secretariat were very useful.

53. Mrs. HASAN (Pakistan) said that her delegation fully subscribed to the view that outer space was the common heritage of all mankind. Her delegation firmly believed that all States should benefit from the peaceful applications of space technology through effective international cooperation. It had been Pakistan's consistent position that outer space should be used solely for peaceful purposes. Moreover, equitable benefits should be ensured for all States. Pakistan's space programme was directed towards the achievement of those objectives. Pakistan had also served as host for several seminars and short courses.

54. COPUOS could play a vital role in further strengthening international cooperation in outer space activities. It could also support efforts to prevent the militarization of outer space. Her delegation was in favour of a comprehensive convention to prevent an arms race in outer space. The work of COPUOS could provide a useful input to the efforts of the Conference on Disarmament, which should strengthen and amplify the existing legal regime on the peaceful use of outer space. Particular attention should be given to banning anti-satellite weapons as well as ballistic-missile defence systems. Her delegation called for strict adherence to existing multilateral and bilateral legal instruments relating to outer space.

55. Her delegation welcomed the agreement reached on Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space. However, in the light of recent technological developments, the remaining work on the elaboration of those

principles should be completed as soon as possible. The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee should continue to examine the question of the geostationary orbit with a view to proposing an equitable and just solution. The solution must guarantee the availability of that important resource to all countries, especially the developing countries.

56. Her delegation noted with satisfaction the progress achieved in the deliberations on the important subject of space debris, which had recently been included in the agenda of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. Her delegation supported the Committee's view that the Subcommittee should continue to develop, on a priority basis, a scientific and technical basis to minimize the risks of collision of space objects with debris.

57. Considerable work remained to be done with regard to other items on the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee, in particular the definition and delimitation of outer space and the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit. Some proposals on the geostationary orbit could provide a useful basis for further discussion. Another important issue was the conclusion of an early agreement on the legal aspects related to the application of the principle that the exploration and utilization of outer space should be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all States. That agreement should take account of the particular needs of the developing countries.

58. In accordance with the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space concerning the development of indigenous capabilities in developing countries, Pakistan had offered to host a regional centre for space science and technology. Her delegation had also submitted a working paper on the possibility of holding a third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and earnestly hoped that the Committee would promptly recommend that the General Assembly should decide to convene the Conference.

The meeting rose at 12.20 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS
General Assembly
FORTY-NINTH SESSION
Official Records

SPECIAL POLITICAL AND
DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEE
(FOURTH COMMITTEE)
20th meeting
held on
Thursday, 10 November 1994
at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 20th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. HUDYMA (Ukraine)

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ORGANIZATION OF WORK

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The meeting was called to order at 10.40 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 76: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (continued) (A/49/20, A/49/280, A/49/381)

AGENDA ITEM 147: QUESTION OF THE REVIEW OF THE AGREEMENT GOVERNING THE ACTIVITIES OF STATES ON THE MOON AND OTHER CELESTIAL BODIES (continued) (A/49/141)

1. Mr. DUMITRIU (Romania) said that at the current time there truly were new prospects for expanding and enhancing international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. In that respect, the United Nations and the Committee on the Peaceful uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) were playing a significant role; their work was not confined to routine matters or the mere codification of the existing practice of States. The efforts to create new legal structures and to extend to outer space principles of international law which, prior to the space era, had applied only to the activities of States on Earth, were a true exercise in preventive diplomacy.

2. In that spirit, his delegation had welcomed the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 47/68 of 14 December 1992 on the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space; despite their limitations, the Principles were the result of 12 years of hard work and consolidated the progress already achieved. Principles 8 and 9 relating to issues of responsibility and liability were of particular significance. It was important to ensure that those principles were put into practice and were strictly observed. At the same time, COPUOS and the Committee must carefully monitor future developments relating to nuclear power sources so that the relevant principles could be adapted and supplemented in good time, as required by such developments, or, if possible, in anticipation of such developments. It was not chronology which should determine the revision of the Principles, but the experience of their operation.

3. It should be noted that the anticipation of developments did not exclude pragmatism in legal, technical and scientific activities for the peaceful uses of outer space. It was in that spirit that his delegation had approached the report of COPUOS (A/49/20). It was clear from the report that problems which had already been on the agenda for a long time had still not been resolved in a manner that would be acceptable to all members of the Committee. First, there was the continuing dispute regarding the competence of the two United Nations bodies in the area of the prevention of an arms race in outer space. In the view of his delegation, that dispute could be resolved on the basis of General Assembly resolution 44/112 of 15 December 1989, paragraph 5 of which accorded an exclusive mandate to the Conference on Disarmament and its Ad Hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space.

4. Second, COPUOS had noted once again in its report that a variety of views had been expressed on the question of the definition and delimitation of outer space. Before drawing any conclusion, that question must be considered on the

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basis of all available scientific and technical information which could be useful for making a determination about the need for strict delimitation. No attempt should be made to politicize the question. The specific consequences of such delimitation for the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space must be carefully studied.

5. On the problem of space debris, his delegation believed that the study of that question should be concerned with the consequences not only for the space environment but also for the Earth environment. It shared the view put forward in the report of COPUOS on its thirty-seventh session that COPUOS could make an important contribution in the area of environment and development by promoting international cooperation in the application of space technology for the purposes of environmental monitoring and sustainable development. That should be a priority objective in the cooperation between COPUOS, the Commission on Sustainable Development and other intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations concerned with the problems of environment and development.

6. Although it was not a space power, Romania took full advantage of the benefits of international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space and participated in that cooperation to the extent of its possibilities. The Romanian space agency supported the participation of Romanian scientists in international efforts to increase knowledge about outer space and the physical and chemical processes taking place there, and also about the biosphere and the Earth's crust. Romania was making increasing use of satellite telecommunications systems and meteorological satellites and was carrying out a large number of pilot projects on remote sensing in the areas of agriculture, geology, hydrology, environmental management and land use. In addition, through international cooperation, Romania was manufacturing magnetometers, mass spectrometers, dosimeters and instruments for studying cosmic radiation and for growing crystals under conditions of micro-gravity.

7. Cooperation with the International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (INTELSAT), the International Maritime Satellite Organization (INMARSAT) and the European Telecommunications Satellite Organization (EUTELSAT) was continuing to be beneficial, and had enabled Romania to begin to equip its ships with satellite navigational and telecommunications equipment, some of which was manufactured in Romania. Romania specialized in the construction of ground stations for the reception of data from meteorological satellites in polar and geostationary orbits. It also participated in programmes of the Council on International Cooperation in the Study and Utilization of Outer Space (INTERCOSMOS), and had recently concluded an agreement on cooperation with the European Space Agency which had already opened out new possibilities for the development of space research and industry in Romania and for integration in European structures. Romania was willing to provide a site for a regional training centre in space science and technology.

8. Mr. YAHYA (Malaysia) said that the Malaysian delegation recognized the valuable work of COPUOS and its contribution to the promotion of international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. It believed that the exploration and utilization of outer space should be carried out for the benefit

of all States and should take into account the needs of the developing countries. It commended the decision of COPUOS to continue its consideration of ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes.

9. The Malaysian delegation also supported the recommendation of COPUOS that its membership should be increased by no more than eight Member States. It disagreed with the recommendation and view of COPUOS about the procedure for the appointment of the new members. The decision on such appointments should be taken by the President of the General Assembly in consultation with the chairmen of the regional groups. The General Assembly had always followed such a practice, which was consistent with its rules of procedure concerning the establishment and working methods of its subsidiary organs.

10. The delegation of Malaysia fully supported the recommendation of COPUOS contained in paragraphs 147 to 149 of its report about the possibility of convening a third UNISPACE conference. Careful consideration of the organizational and substantive aspects would be vital to the success of the conference.

11. Mr. ABDULLAH (Indonesia) said that it was undeniable that the application of space science and technology were powerful tools for promoting global development, in particular the efforts of the developing countries to derive benefits for their national development programmes in the economic, social and cultural spheres. Yet it was also true that the developing countries lacked the essential infrastructure for the rapid introduction of new and advanced technologies. International cooperation in that realm had therefore become an imperative economic necessity.

12. It was most important for outer space to be used exclusively for peaceful purposes and for the benefit of all mankind, and regional cooperation offered unprecedented opportunities for attaining the goal of sustainable development. Such an approach could help to identify common problems, strengthen mutual understanding and facilitate the adoption of generally acceptable solutions. It was essential for the international community, as it embarked on new space programmes, to take all necessary measures to preserve and protect the environment of the planet.

13. The Indonesian delegation welcomed and endorsed the recommendation for the convening of a third UNISPACE conference in accordance with General Assembly resolution 48/39 of 10 December 1993. The working papers submitted by India, Pakistan and the Group of 77 merited further consideration and discussion. In its report COPUOS had recommended that a consensus should first be reached on the agenda, venue and funding of the conference. In that connection the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee should consider the various themes and subjects with a view to determining which goals and tasks would address the needs and interests of all States.

14. Many developing countries were very worried about the increasing commercialization of data acquired through remote-sensing activities. It was important to make available such analysed information at a reasonable cost and

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in a timely manner. There was also a need to step up the efforts to ensure the continuity, compatibility and complementarity of systems for remote-sensing of the Earth. Similarly, there should be regular meetings of satellite and ground station operators and the users of the services.

15. The question of the definition and delimitation of outer space had evaded agreement for over three decades. The Indonesian delegation earnestly hoped that the issue would be resolved in the near future. Any precise legal framework which was established must be consistent with the basic principles of international law. In that regard it had taken note of the working paper introduced by the Working Group at its 1993 session. The paper provided a firm basis for future exchanges of views.

16. It must be acknowledged that the problems associated with the saturation of the geostationary orbit remained unresolved. Under the present circumstances the vast majority of States, particularly the developing countries, did not have equitable and safeguarded access to the orbit. Any definition and delimitation of outer space must necessarily include the establishment of a special legal regime for the geostationary orbit.

17. Mr. SAMADI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the rapid developments in space technology and many of its applications had already made a great impact on the quality of life in many countries, and recent international developments had opened up new opportunities for the use of space technology to improve international peace and stability. The implementation of all the recommendations of UNISPACE 82 could play a major role in solving the problems of Member States and in particular of the developing countries. The Islamic Republic of Iran endorsed the recommendation of COPUOS concerning the development of national capabilities and the initiatives taken by the United Nations Programme on Space Applications to establish regional centres for space science and technology education. It reiterated its readiness to host the Asian centre for space science and technology education, for which adequate financial resources had been allocated and teaching staff selected. The Iranian delegation was also pleased to note the agreement reached by COPUOS on the convening of a third UNISPACE conference in the near future. The holding of the conference, especially in a developing country, would create an opportunity for a large number of States to take part in the consideration of the achievements of space technology and its applications since UNISPACE 82.

18. The Iranian delegation was also pleased to note the progress made in the consideration of the important subject of space debris and supported the view of COPUOS that the Subcommittee should continue to develop a firm scientific and technical basis for future actions to tackle what was a very urgent problem. Another important issue was the prevention of an arms race in outer space. There was an urgent need to conclude an international agreement or agreements on the prevention of an arms race in outer space, with a view to strengthening the existing regime, and also to develop confidence-building measures in the interim. In that context the Iranian delegation supported the idea of enhanced cooperation between COPUOS and the Conference on Disarmament. The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee should also consider the question of creating a

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unified mechanism through which all countries could cooperate with regard to remote sensing and the use of remote-sensing data.

19. Mr. STRAUSS (Canada) said that the most important event in Canada over the past year had undoubtedly been the approval of a new space programme by the Government. The programme had built on existing activities while providing for new initiatives, and over $2.7 billion would be allocated in the federal budget over the coming decade for civilian space activities. The programme met the following key objectives of the Government in relation to space activities: first, it focused on consolidating Canada's commercial and technical strength to meet national needs in the areas of Earth observation and communications; second, it would contribute to economic growth and employment; third, it would help to increase industrial competitiveness on world markets; and, fourth, it would ensure maximum leverage of resources through private sector investment.

20. The new Canadian space programme provided for significant investments in fields such as Earth observation, satellite communications, space science and space technology. It included new resources for additional flight opportunities to allow Canadian astronauts to participate fully in the in-orbit assembly of space stations and experiments on behalf of the Canadian scientific and industrial communities. It also provided for investments in a Space Awareness Programme. International cooperation had always been the cornerstone of Canadian space activities, particularly in the fields of space science, space technology development, and space and ground infrastructures for Earth observation. Canada was pleased that the Russian Federation would be participating fully in the project to build the International Space Station.

21. Among the most significant achievements in space activities in Canada over the past year, he highlighted space science and global change research, in the context of which Canada was continuing to develop an instrument for measuring pollution in the troposphere. A recent discovery made by the Wind Imaging Interferometer had demonstrated that the upper atmosphere responded to processes arising at the Earth's surface. The instrument had also discovered a gap in atomic oxygen at the equator, thought to be due to the action of atmospheric tides and associated winds. Furthermore, in July, Canadian scientists had participated in the second International Microgravity Laboratory mission, the results of which would be useful in understanding the causes of back pain in astronauts. Progress had also been made in Canada's two largest projects, the development of a mobile servicing system for assembling, maintaining and operating the International Space Station, and the launch of the RADARSAT satellite which would permit observation of the Earth even in darkness and through clouds. A satellite search and rescue system which Canada had helped to pioneer had already saved over 3,500 lives.

22. His delegation hoped that 1995 would be a productive year for the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) and its subcommittees. Canada was particularly pleased that COPUOS had decided to address actively the issue of space debris, and it looked forward to productive discussions on a number of other issues, including the use and application of space technology in education and sustainable development, and ways and means to improve the effectiveness of

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the work methods of COPUOS and its subcommittees. In recent years a convergence of factors such as the end of the cold war and enhanced global awareness of the importance of environmental protection and disaster prevention had made international cooperation in space activities even more essential. One manifestation of that cooperation was the Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Development in Asia and the Pacific, which had been held in Beijing in September 1994. Those and other events would make it possible to realize the full benefits from investment in space activities.

23. Mr. HELLBECK (Germany), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that in recent years the role of multilateral, bilateral and regional cooperation in the fields of space science and technology had grown considerably. Such expanded cooperation was symbolized by the International Space Station, a project in which the Russian Federation would join the former cooperation partners - the United States, Canada, Japan and the European Space Agency. Another important step on the way to establishing truly global space cooperation had been the participation of the German astronaut Ulf Merbold in the work of the Russian orbital space station Mir.

24. Looking back at the activities undertaken the previous year by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, he stressed the importance of the initial discussions in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the question of space debris. Finding a solution to that problem was particularly important for the safety of future space flights, and his delegation recommended that COPUOS should set a deadline for the submission of a report by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

25. The European Union also attached great importance to the use of space in safeguarding the environment. COPUOS could play a significant role in the application of a number of the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. Moreover, the planned third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should be meaningful for all participants, regardless of what group of States they belonged to. The European Union therefore welcomed the recommendation by COPUOS that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee should conduct a very thorough analysis and definition of an agenda for that Conference at its next session. It should also consider whether the goals set for such a Conference might possibly be achieved by other means, including intensification of work within COPUOS.

26. On the question of enlarging the membership of COPUOS, the formula that had been agreed in the Committee took into account the very different points of view of the various regional groups and struck a balance between them. The European Union would prefer COPUOS membership to be extended only to those countries which were already actively involved in international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space and could therefore contribute substantively to the Committee's work. It was sure that consensus would shortly be reached on all eight candidates, but, should that process take longer than expected, there might be a case for considering the admission of States that already had the backing of their regional groups.

27. Mr. INDERFURTH (United States of America) said that the current session of the General Assembly was being held on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the first lunar landing, under his country's Apollo 11 programme. Later, in 1973, with the participation of 28 other States, the Skylab space station had been put into orbit and had produced an unprecedented wealth of useful scientific data. In 1975, the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project, the first American-Soviet space flight, had shown the world that opposing super-Powers could participate together in space exploration. In recent years, unprecedented political changes had taken place and had furthered international cooperation in space exploration to the benefit of all countries. Attention was now focused on the application of space techniques to the understanding and solution of terrestrial problems, while, at the same time, exploration of the solar system was continuing under joint international programmes to discover the origin of the universe and of life itself. His delegation had drawn attention to the twenty-fifth anniversary of the lunar landing in order to point out that the Apollo 11 lunar mission had affirmed one of the cardinal principles of the 1967 Treaty, namely that the exploration of outer space should be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all States.

28. A clear example of how national space programmes could provide global benefits was to be noted in the area of satellite remote sensing. For over 30 years, the United States had been operating satellite systems for that purpose. On 5 May 1994, the United States Government had decided to merge two meteorological satellite systems operated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Department of Defense. The scientific data obtained by that system would be distributed worldwide. On the same day, the President of the United States had signed the Land Remote Sensing Strategy to maintain the continuity of Landsat data. Under that plan, NOAA, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the Department of the Interior would ensure that the satellite data were available to users throughout the world.

29. In the view of his country, another potential area for international cooperation was the detection and tracking of asteroids and comets in Earth-crossing orbits. NASA estimated that there were currently 2,000 comets or asteroids capable of causing major global damage. His delegation believed that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space could play a key role on that issue.

30. The success of the Committee's work and the cooperative spirit which it displayed demonstrated that the principle of consensus could work effectively. It would be recalled that his delegation and others had put forward detailed proposals over the previous decade for improving the work of the Committee and its subcommittees. The Committee had concluded that the strengthening of international cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space implied the need for an improvement in the methods and forms of its work. It was gratifying that many of those proposals had been adopted. Of particular note had been the productive discussions in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, in which space scientists and experts were playing a central role. On the other hand, more remained to be done to improve the working methods of

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the Legal Subcommittee. In that connection, he was glad to note that the Chairman of that Subcommittee intended to conduct informal consultations on its methods of work and agenda and to report the results to the Committee at its 1995 session.

31. Mr. VERDIER (Argentina) said that his delegation wished to raise a number of issues that deserved particular attention. At its recent session, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee had, inter alia, considered the question of the implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. In that context, Argentina noted the proposal to hold a third UNISPACE Conference. It supported the action taken under the United Nations Programme on Space Applications and, in that connection, welcomed the measures relating to the establishment in Brazil of a Centre for Space Science and Technology Education and was prepared to cooperate fully in its work. His delegation was gratified that a decision had been taken that the question of space debris would be considered by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

32. With regard to the work of the Legal Subcommittee, he noted, in particular, its discussions on the question of the delimitation of outer space on the basis of the innovative proposal put forward by the Russian Federation concerning the development of a questionnaire on aerospace objects. His delegation hoped that, at its next session, the Subcommittee would begin to prepare the text of that questionnaire. With respect to the geostationary orbit, he took note of the working paper on that matter submitted by the delegation of Colombia (A/AC.105/C.2/L.192), the underlying theme of which was equitable access to that orbit. The members of the Subcommittee had considered the legal aspects related to the application of the principle that the exploration and utilization of outer space should be carried out for the benefit of all States. Discussion of that matter had been based on a working paper (A/AC.105/C.2/L.182/Rev.1), of which his delegation had been a sponsor.

33. Argentina welcomed the decision to enlarge the membership of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and was confident that Nicaragua, Cuba and Peru, as new members of the Committee representing Latin America and the Caribbean, would make a major contribution to its work.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

34. The CHAIRMAN said that the delegations concerned had apparently not yet completed their consultations on agenda items 76 and 147; in order to facilitate the work of the Committee, he suggested that the deadline for the submission of draft proposals should be 12 noon on Friday, 11 November. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee agreed to that suggestion.

35. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 11.45 a.m.

UNITED NATIONS
General Assembly
FORTY-NINTH SESSION
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SPECIAL POLITICAL AND
DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEE
(FOURTH COMMITTEE)
21st meeting
held on
Monday, 14 November 1994
at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 21st MEETING

Chairman: Mr. HUDYMA (Ukraine)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.45 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 79: COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE WHOLE QUESTION OF PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS IN ALL THEIR ASPECTS (A/48/403, A/49/114-S/1994/357, A/49/136, A/49/228-S/1994/827, A/49/287-S/1994/894 and Corr.1, A/49/335, A/49/336, A/49/479)

1. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to the report of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations (A/49/136) and the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Improving the capacity of the United Nations for peace-keeping (A/48/403), as well as a number of communications relating to the item.

2. Mr. GAMBARI (Nigeria), Chairman of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations, introducing the report of the Special Committee (A/49/136), said that over the past year, the instrument of peace-keeping had been employed in new and ever more challenging settings. Within the Secretariat, major progress had been made in the implementation of many of the recommendations made in 1993 by the Special Committee. Among the Member States, many groups, both informal and semi-formal, had been deeply engaged in the consideration of various aspects of peace-keeping. Within the formal organs of the United Nations, peace-keeping issues had continued to receive the interest and attention they deserved. Against that background, the Special Committee had held its regular annual session and produced its report. The recommendations and conclusions in the report formed the basis of the corresponding draft resolution.

3. In its work, the Special Committee made no practical distinction between its 34 members and 44 observers, particularly as it had been able to operate on a consensus basis. Naturally States which wished to participate in the work of the Special Committee with observer status were welcome to do so. In a real sense, the Special Committee had become an open-ended working committee.

4. Introducing the draft resolution, which would be published in document A/C.4/49/L.12, he reviewed its contents and said that the draft resolution had been the focus of thorough and extensive consideration among Member States. It was a reflection of the deep and continuing interest in United Nations peace-keeping operations. There was widespread interest to ensure that peace-keeping missions, which were increasingly numerous, sizeable and complex, contributed in the most effective manner possible to international peace and security. The draft resolution took a truly comprehensive approach to peace-keeping operations, which were of vital interest both to peoples currently in need of international assistance in restoring peace and security and to peoples who might some day experience similar circumstances.

5. Nigeria's experience as an active participant in global peace-keeping, conflict resolution and crisis management efforts, had convinced it that there was a need to re-examine and reorient the peace-keeping efforts of the United Nations. Since the establishment of the cease-fire monitoring group of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOMOG), Nigeria had become not only

Africa's but also one of the world's largest troop contributors to international peace-keeping operations. It was therefore concerned about the incessant harassment, kidnapping and killing of peace-keepers in various theatres of conflict. In order to encourage other countries to participate in those costly and often dangerous operations, the United Nations must develop capacity of effective deterrence against those attacks and adopt appropriate measures to provide prompt and adequate compensation for the victims, while also developing mechanisms to punish the guilty.

6. His delegation welcomed and fully supported the recent statement by the President of the Security Council on the issue of creating a more effective system of consulting with Security Council members and troop-contributing countries. Such a dialogue would not only enrich the decisions of the Council but would also enhance their legitimacy. Greater transparency would greatly help to strengthen the political support of troop-contributing countries for the mandates of the various peace-keeping operations of the United Nations. Nigeria had always taken the view that consultations between troop contributors and the Security Council were not only desirable but also necessary for the full and effective discharge of their obligations under the Charter.

7. Finally, he expressed the hope that the draft resolution, which had truly been the result of a collective effort, would be adopted by consensus.

8. Mr. ANNAN (Under-Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Operations) said that in view of the constantly evolving demands on United Nations peace-keeping operations, a restructuring was being carried out in the relevant parts of the Secretariat. Over the past 18 months the Situation Centre, which operated around the clock, had been established within the Department of Peace-keeping Operations. That made it possible to monitor continuously all peace-keeping operations in different parts of the world. In addition, the Field Operations Division had been integrated into the Department, so that the material, technical and administrative aspects of peace-keeping operations could be planned and organized more effectively. An Office of Planning and Support had also been established so as to improve the planning of new operations and review of existing operations. It was hoped that the Department would be able to enhance its planning function so that planners could be assigned to implement their plans directly in the field.

9. A Civilian Police Unit had been established in the Department to coordinate all United Nations civilian police activities. A De-mining Unit had been formed. That Unit, which consisted of two de-mining experts, would assess the size of mine fields in various localities, carry out some de-mining operations and assist with training. In addition, a Training Unit had been established. Currently, troops for peace-keeping operations were being provided by 75 countries: from the Philippines, which had sent one man, to Pakistan, which had sent 10,200 men. In order to ensure uniformity and mutual understanding, appropriate training was essential.

10. Much of what he had described had been achieved despite the grave shortage of financial resources. Several States, recognizing that problem, had seconded

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staff to work in the Department - 105 people in all. However, in the future the Department would still need to establish permanent posts so as to ensure continuity in its work since seconded staff were generally made available to the Secretariat for between six months and one year only.

11. The experience of Somalia had been highly instructive in demonstrating the importance of command and control. In hostile conditions, smooth command and control were absolutely essential or the results could be catastrophic. It was therefore vital that every State participating in peace-keeping operations should accept the principle of unity of command and should require its commanders to come under the operational command of the Force Commander.

12. As for the issue of consultations between troop-contributing countries and the Secretariat, on which the President of the Security Council had recently issued a statement, the first such meeting was to be held that same day and would be devoted to the question of extending the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ).

13. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) was currently considering a proposal whereby, once the Security Council had adopted a resolution on a peace-keeping operation or had instructed the Secretariat accordingly, one third of the required contributions should be assessed immediately. Under the current system it sometimes happened that States which were ready to contribute were unable to do so since the level of their contribution had not yet been established. He hoped that delegations would support that initiative, as well as other initiatives currently under discussion, such as the creation of a reserve fund for peace-keeping operations or the establishment of a separate budget for such operations. The Secretariat would continue its efforts to improve and rationalize its work in that area.

14. Ms. FRECHETTE (Canada) said that the active participation of a large number of States in the informal consultations on the draft resolution on peace-keeping operations attested to the keen interest displayed by Member States in that issue. Furthermore, the participation of 75,000 troops and police officers from 75 countries in United Nations peace-keeping operations placed in perspective recent assertions that Member States were weakening in their commitment to peace-keeping.

15. It had become a truism that the current peace-keeping operations were vastly more multifaceted then previous such operations and the challenges they faced increasingly complex. The risks surrounding their deployment had also greatly increased. In that connection, Canada welcomed the conclusion by the Sixth Committee of the negotiations on an international convention dealing with the safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel and looked forward to its early adoption by the General Assembly.

16. Canada welcomed the increased capacity of Headquarters to administer field missions, which had been achieved through the creation of new, and the strengthening of existing, units of the Department of Peace-keeping Operations, and it urged the competent Committees of the General Assembly, ACABQ and the

Fifth Committee, to authorize the allocation of the resources essential for the completion of that restructuring. Canada was also pleased to note that the Fifth Committee and the General Assembly would be considering the administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of United Nations peace-keeping operations under agenda item 132 and hoped that the relevant processes would be simplified and standardized.

17. In an endeavour to enrich the content of discussions on peace-keeping operations, earlier in 1994 Canada had hosted a high-level meeting in Ottawa on enhancing United Nations peace-keeping capabilities. It hoped that the high-level meeting and the three working papers recently circulated to Member States would make a substantial contribution to the ongoing discussion on that issue.

18. There were many ways to contribute to the enhancement of the capabilities of the Department of Peace-keeping Operations. Thus, over the previous two years Canada had seconded to the Department military personnel and experts in finance, engineering, de-mining, communications and other specialized areas. It was also studying the feasibility of providing administrative and logistical support to the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR), in the belief that, should such support prove viable, it could serve as a model for the provision of support in the early phases of operations. Canada was also proposing the establishment of a simplified procedure for its participation in the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH), to reduce the administrative burdens associated with current procedures.

19. Canada welcomed the statement by the President of the Security Council of 4 November on consultations between Council members and troop-contributing countries; it attached paramount importance to the enhancement of the consultation process. The draft resolution under preparation recognized the importance of improving United Nations public information activities in support of peace-keeping operations both at Headquarters and in the field. The widespread distribution of impartial factual information about peace-keeping operations would help to dispel misconceptions and create a favourable climate for the conduct of such operations. With regard to command and control arrangements, it had been recognized that Special Representatives and Force Commanders could not carry out their mission successfully if there were restrictions on the use of contingents. Canada looked forward to further progress between Member States and the Organization in clarifying those matters.

20. Canada was pursuing a study on options for enhancing the United Nations capability to respond more rapidly to crises such as that in Rwanda. That study included a consideration of the possibility of creating a permanent United Nations military force. Canada looked forward to working with other interested States on those issues.

21. Mr. RAZALI (Malaysia) said that United Nations peace-keeping operations were indeed at a crossroads. The problem was caused by the decision by some countries to restrict their participation in such operations to "areas of vital national interest" and to rely increasingly on unilateral action, with or without the approval of the Security Council.

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22. With the end of the cold war, the traditional definition of peace-keeping operations had changed. They were no longer confined to the use of multinational military personnel under international command and with the consent of the parties to help control and resolve conflicts between hostile States. Over the previous five years the requirement for consent of the parties had often been overridden by humanitarian imperatives such as mass starvation, refugee flows or flagrant violations of the right to life itself. The rapid increase in the number of ongoing operations and the manpower employed in them had brought with it a sharp increase in the resources needed to run those operations.

23. The crisis confronting United Nations peace-keeping operations could not, however, be attributed solely to manpower and financial problems. It was impossible to ignore the apprehensions voiced by many Member States concerning the questionable mandates of operations, particularly those with a potential to undermine the principle of the sovereignty of States and of non-interference in domestic affairs. At the same time, some United Nations operations which had been urgently needed had not been implemented in time. That had resulted in humanitarian disasters, such as the calamity of unprecedented scale in Rwanda. The Organization's role in Rwanda was a classic instance of the abandonment by certain Powers of their obligations, for the ostensible reason that the crisis in Rwanda had erupted outside their "areas of vital national interest". The humanitarian tragedy in Rwanda would forever be a stain on the conscience of those who had the power and resources and yet had refused to respond.

24. Malaysia had never had any strategic national interests in any United Nations peace-keeping operations, yet from the early years of its independence it had consciously played its part in promoting international peace and security. It remained the seventh largest contributor of troops to United Nations peace-keeping operations, with more than 2,800 peace-keepers participating in 7 of the 16 current operations. Its participation was intended to strengthen the role of the United Nations and to help make collective security a reality. It was fully prepared to work under United Nations command, and, indeed, would not agree to anything less. In that regard, it failed to understand the concern of some major Powers which refused to serve under United Nations command.

25. One area of critical importance to the vast majority of troop-contributing countries was the need for direct consultations with the Security Council. While his delegation welcomed the statement by the President of the Council of 4 November 1994, it believed that specific areas for further consultations included situations where the mandate of a new peace-keeping operation was being formulated; where the concept and/or plan of operation of a peace-keeping operation was being considered; where the extension or substantive modification of the mandate of an existing peace-keeping operation was being considered; where significant developments occurred which, in the opinion of the Secretary-General or of members of the Security Council, were likely to affect materially the functioning of the operation or its ability to fulfil its mandate; and where the withdrawal of the operation, in whole or in part, was being considered.

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26. The argument that had been made for a clear and distinct separation of the roles of the Secretary-General and the Security Council and for the Secretary-General to have the ability to intercede as an honest broker had merits, given that the Security Council was often seen as an intergovernmental body which promoted the vested interests of major Powers. Those issues deserved consideration by the Committee. Account should also be taken of the significance of appropriate training and the need for an efficient Secretariat support structure. Reimbursement to troop-contributing countries, particularly developing countries, should be undertaken on a priority basis and, at the same time, financial contributions should be paid in full and on time, especially by the permanent members of the Security Council.

27. Malaysia supported the proposal for the enlargement of the membership of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations. It also emphasized that peace-keeping could not be a permanent substitute for long-term peace and stability. In that regard, the forthcoming debate on an agenda for development must address the root causes of conflict, so as to ensure that resources for development activities did not diminish as a result of peace-keeping operations.

28. Mr. KAMUNANWIRE (Uganda) said that conflicts, particularly ethnic and religious conflicts, were currently among the basic challenges in the field of international peace and security. Emphasis was being placed on the need for increased preventive diplomacy and peacemaking. The Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) was trying out new mechanisms which overcame the limitations of traditional international law. The establishment of a High Commissioner on National Minorities seemed particularly promising. The United Nations was extending its network of regional offices, a step which, among other things, was designed to improve early warning and conflict prevention. Preventive deployment in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia had prevented the spread of hostilities. Regional organizations were also striving to improve the instruments at their disposal. In that connection, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) had set up a mechanism for conflict prevention, management and resolution.

29. All means for the peaceful settlement of conflicts should be exploited before enforcement measures under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter were considered. The effectiveness of United Nations peace-keeping operations was more vital than ever. States which contributed funds and troops should work closely together with the United Nations and the regional organizations, as well as with the parties concerned, to find more effective ways and means of strengthening peace-keeping operations, particularly through the establishment of coordinated military and political organizational forms of cooperation.

30. There could be no uniform international standards for peace-keeping. There was therefore a need for a flexibility of approach and appropriate preparedness. Regional and subregional organizations should play an increasingly active role in both preventive diplomacy and peace-keeping operations. Some regional organizations, especially those in the developing countries, lacked the necessary capacities and financial resources. For that reason they should be supported in their initiatives in what was an area of common concern. Areas in

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which support was vital included adequate assistance in logistics and the capacity enhancement of rapidly deployable peace-keepers. The idea of stand-by peace-keepers within national armies - which would require additional resources - was already being proposed. The United Nations would have to play a leading role, especially through its Peace-keeping Reserve Fund. There should be a uniform set of rules of procedure, as well as ground rules for the participation of Member States in United Nations peace-keeping operations.

31. His delegation attached great importance to the ongoing review of current administrative and financial arrangements for peace-keeping operations. It commended the Secretary-General for his report on the effective planning, budgeting and administration of peace-keeping operations (A/48/945) and would proffer its views on various elements contained therein at an appropriate stage. It was important to ensure that discussion of the report led to the adoption of measures which, inter alia, were fair, equitable and balanced for all troop contributors. Equally important was the need to formulate a clear code on the obligations and duties of troop-contributing countries, so that their troops were adequately prepared for missions.

32. If the United Nations was to fulfil the challenging task of peace-keeping, the Peace-keeping Reserve Fund must at all times be adequately replenished. His delegation upheld the principle of the special responsibilities of the permanent members of the Security Council with regard to the maintenance of international peace and security, as well as the principle of capacity to pay and the active quest for voluntary contributions from all possible sources.

33. As stated in the Secretary-General's report "An Agenda for Peace", the United Nations should place the main emphasis on preventive diplomacy and peacemaking. That was not only cheaper, it was also the most rational and acceptable option for the lasting resolution of the kind of conflicts currently taking place. In that connection, there was a need to strengthen the necessary capacities for diplomatic and political action, including the collection and analysis of all possible information on potential areas of conflict. Regional and subregional organizations, as well as the specialized agencies and other organizations, would be useful instruments in that regard.

34. Mr. BREIER (Venezuela) said that, at its last two sessions, the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations had made great progress in its comprehensive consideration of peace-keeping operations. From the political and practical points of view, each crisis had its own characteristic features which made it unique. The response of the Organization should take those specific characteristics into account.

35. The Security Council was not in a position to identify operational policy and mobilize resources and other bodies and organizational systems therefore had to be involved in that task. In that connection, the Special Committee should study how best to ensure effective cooperation and coordination throughout the system, and should monitor the entire process. There should be transparency in the relations between the Security Council, the Secretariat and troop-contributing countries. Operations should be planned and conducted using the

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most advanced methods and procedures. Member States that were in a position to do so should continue to support reforms. It was essential to ensure that responsibility for the conduct of peace-keeping operations was not borne by national or multinational forces. Member States and the regional organizations should be in a position to carry out mandates under the Charter on a collective basis and recognize the command and control requirements of particular United Nations peace-keeping operations. The funding of operations should remain the collective responsibility of Member States. The special responsibility of the permanent members of the Security Council should once again be emphasized. The system for the equitable sharing of costs envisaged in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV) should not be subordinated to unilateral interests.

36. It was essential to make a special effort in the dissemination of information directed both to the general public and to Member States themselves so that the political bodies could effectively support the conduct of the Organization's work.

37. Constant attention must be paid to the issue of the safety and security of staff. The recent discussion of the draft convention on that subject had been a major achievement. The support of States would, as before, be of fundamental importance in ensuring staff safety and security.

38. Mr. OWADA (Japan) said that, as the experience of the United Nations in Cambodia had shown, the resolution of conflicts required a comprehensive approach; peace-keeping operations, despite their importance, were just one element of any peace process. Turning to the draft resolution under consideration, he identified a number of points to which his delegation attached particular importance.

39. First of all, for a peace-keeping operation to achieve its goals it must be carefully designed in every detail, including such issues as its overall structure, its mandate and the period of deployment. Moreover, a unified command and control mechanism must be in place.

40. Secondly, a mechanism for consultation and coordination between Member States, the Security Council and the Secretariat was of increasing importance. In that connection, Japan welcomed the statements by the President of the Security Council on communication between members and non-members of the Council.

41. Thirdly, the United Nations should be more vigorous in disseminating public information on the nature and mandates of peace-keeping operations.

42. Fourthly, it was essential to ensure the most effective use of resources in connection with every peace-keeping operation, which required improved financial control, including audit and inspection mechanisms.

43. Fifthly, strong emphasis should be placed on the training of personnel; in that connection his delegation recommended that the Department of Peace-keeping Operations should coordinate efforts by countries and organs involved in peace-

keeping operations, and that Member States should share information and experience concerning their national training programmes. The establishment of national or regional peace-keeping training centres would also be useful.

44. The issue of the safety and security of United Nations peace-keeping personnel was of the utmost importance. That issue might be addressed in the following manner. In the first place, in preparing to launch a peace-keeping operation, the Security Council should carefully assess the safety and security situation in the area of deployment and take appropriate measures to counteract any possible threats to United Nations personnel. Secondly, the Secretary-General should initiate a dialogue with Member States on possible additional safety measures. Thirdly, the same legal and practical arrangements should be made to ensure the security of troops and civilians engaged in humanitarian activities as were made for ensuring the security of United Nations personnel engaged in military aspects of peace-keeping.

45. Finally, his delegation announced that Japan intended to continue participating actively in United Nations peace-keeping operations.

46. Mr. WORONIECKI (Poland) said that the dramatic expansion of peace-keeping operations was confronting the United Nations with new tasks which went beyond the traditional concept of peace-keeping. Poland had been taking part in United Nations peace-keeping operations since 1973 and was ready to maintain the number of Polish peace-keepers. However, it was worried about the growing tendency to resort to peace-keeping operations as if they were the only means of conflict resolution; it would be better for the parties to a conflict to make greater efforts to achieve a political settlement.

47. The Polish Government fully supported the efforts of the Secretary-General to reorganize the Secretariat and strengthen its peace-keeping management and planning capacity, and it noted with satisfaction that the Department of Peace-keeping Operations was becoming the central link in such activities.

48. There had long been a need to establish a mechanism for consultations between troop-contributing countries, the members of the Security Council and the Secretariat. The statement of the President of the Security Council dated 4 November 1994 was welcome in that respect.

49. There were a number of other aspects of peace-keeping operations which were important for Poland. For example, the Security Council should rigorously review, and if necessary even terminate, operations whose mandates had become unworkable. In addition to the present Polish contingent involved in peace-keeping operations, the Polish Government had undertaken to prepare a logistics unit and designate it as a United Nations stand-by force. The success of peace-keeping operations depended on the coordination of all their political, civil and humanitarian components. With regard to the problem of the casualties among peace-keeping personnel, it was to be hoped that the Ad Hoc Committee would complete the drafting of a universally binding legal instrument on the topic. With regard to the refunding issue, the delays resulting from the late payment of contributions were causing serious difficulties for many troop-

contributing countries. On the question of regional arrangements, the Polish delegation shared the view of the Secretary-General that the use of such arrangements would further democratize the international system but that the formation of spheres of influence might deal a serious blow to collective security.

50. The Polish delegation was happy to note that the military manoeuvres held on Polish territory as part of the training of United Nations troops had been successfully completed, and it reiterated Poland's readiness to continue to play an active part in United Nations peace-keeping operations in all their aspects.

51. Mr. Chong-Ha YOO (Republic of Korea) said that as regional armed conflicts had come to replace the East-West confrontation United Nations peace-keeping operations had grown dramatically in both importance and size, and the Organization must reassess its capacity to conduct such operations. In order for peace-keeping operations to be effective they must have a clear and feasible mandate and be provided with sufficient human and material resources; in addition, it was important to establish an estimated time-frame for an operation and a phase-out plan and, where necessary, periodically review its mandate.

52. The increasing number and complexity of peace-keeping operations created an increasing need for more frequent and regular consultations between the Security Council, the Secretariat and troop-contributing countries, and in that connection the delegation of the Republic of Korea welcomed the statement of the President of the Security Council dated 4 November 1994 about the arrangements for consultation proposed by New Zealand and Argentina. Enhanced interaction between the three parties would not only facilitate the preparation and assessment of the various elements of peace-keeping operations but also enhance the transparency of the work of the Security Council. An effective consultation process must include the rapid supply of information on peace-keeping operations; the discontinuation of the weekly reports on peace-keeping operations was regrettable, for they had been a valuable source of information for the delegation of the Republic of Korea, and it was to be hoped that publication would be resumed in the near future. Since the rapid deployment of peace-keeping forces was a critical factor in conflict settlement, there was a growing need to enhance the level of preparedness of the operations, and the Republic of Korea welcomed the recent efforts of the Secretariat to pre-stock equipment, including armoured personnel carriers.

53. The safety of the personnel involved in peace-keeping operations was another important issue. His delegation therefore welcomed the completion of the work in the Sixth Committee on a draft convention on the safety of United Nations and associated personnel and it hoped that the concerns of staff members who were excluded from the scope of the draft convention would be addressed in future discussions.

54. The lack of adequate financial resources for peace-keeping operations remained a major source of concern. It was important for all Member States to pay their assessed contributions on time. The recommendations on the diversification of sources of funding deserved the Committee's close attention.

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Since the establishment of peace-keeping missions was a principal task of the Security Council, it was to be hoped that the permanent members of the Council would play a more constructive role in alleviating the Organization's financial difficulties.

55. The delegation of the Republic of Korea reiterated its support for the Secretary-General's proposals on simplification of the budget process, for they would facilitate the creation of a unified budget system for peace-keeping operations which would enable the Secretary-General to be more flexible in dealing with unforeseen expenditures at the initial stage of a new operation and would serve as a sound mechanism for allocating financial resources. Furthermore, in order to enhance the effectiveness of the process it was essential to have greater uniformity, in particular the standardization of the reimbursement rate for the provision of equipment.

56. Since the time when it had become a member of the United Nations in 1991 the Republic of Korea had been actively participating in peace-keeping operations, beginning with the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) and the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) and ending with the secondment of military observers to the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) and the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP). The Republic of Korea also planned to join in the United Nations stand-by arrangements. It would maintain its solid commitment to the endeavours of the United Nations to guarantee international peace and security.

57. Mr. LIAN (Norway), speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, said that peace-keeping activities constituted one of the most important means by which the United Nations contributed to conflict resolution and the promotion of peace; the Nordic countries advocated the continued strengthening of such functions. Recent years had seen not only a considerable increase in the number of peace-keeping operations but also the diversification of the tasks and functions, including the preventive deployment of troops, disarmament and demobilization, protection and the delivery of humanitarian assistance, monitoring of human rights, and assistance with the return of refugees; the demand for the United Nations to become involved in such tasks throughout the world continued undiminished. The lack of resources and personnel made it difficult for the Organization to respond to all the demands, and in the light of experience close consideration must be given to the question of what demands should be made on United Nations peace-keeping activities in the future.

58. In the statement of the President of the Security Council dated 3 May the Council had for the first time specified the guidelines and requirements for peace-keeping operations, and the Nordic countries wished to emphasize the need for the formulation of clear and feasible mandates as well as the importance of improving the capacity of the United Nations for rapid deployment in peace-keeping operations and for the provision of troop reinforcements.

59. The rapid increase in the size and complexity of the operations posed new demands in their planning, organization and coordination, and the United Nations

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must perform those functions more effectively. The Department of Peace-keeping Operations had greatly increased its capacity through reorganization and the recruitment of additional personnel, but the Nordic countries believed that there was still room for improvement in administration and logistics. Unity of command and the establishment of United Nations stand-by arrangements in Member States should also be emphasized.

60. The relationship between humanitarian relief operations and peace-keeping measures was an important one, and in many cases a close interaction between the two forms of activity was most desirable. The Nordic countries advocated a more active role for civilian police forces, for such personnel could perform a variety of crucial functions in most peace-keeping operations.

61. Increasingly the United Nations had to respond to complex emergencies which had political, military and humanitarian aspects. Traditional peace-keeping or humanitarian measures were insufficient in such situations, which required a comprehensive approach by the States concerned, as well as the assistance of regional arrangements and organizations. In the future, regional organizations would have a more active role to play in the maintenance of peace, and Article 52, paragraph 2, of the Charter was relevant in that connection. However, it was important to remember that the fundamental role in the maintenance of international peace and security belonged to the Security Council.

62. The capacity of the United Nations to conduct peace-keeping operations must be continuously enhanced, and the Nordic countries were encouraged by the progress achieved on that and related issues over the past 12 months. They had themselves been engaged in the efforts: in particular, they had submitted a proposal for improving the command and control capability of the United Nations in peace-keeping operations, and Norway had chaired an informal working group which had sought to delineate the requirements for operational command and the accomplishment of the tasks entrusted to peace-keeping missions by the Security Council. The working group's report had been transmitted to the Secretary-General in response to resolution 48/43 and was intended to facilitate the drafting of his report on the issue. The Nordic countries wished to highlight a number of important elements, including the formulation of a common understanding of the meaning of operational control, the need for clear lines of command and the central role of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, the need to strengthen the Secretariat's capacity for contingency planning and large-scale logistics planning, and the need for coordination between the United Nations, its funds and programmes, and the specialized agencies and, on a case-by-case basis, non-governmental organizations.

63. The political direction of peace-keeping operations was of great importance, and the Nordic countries emphasized the need to institute multilateral arrangements for regular consultation and information-sharing between the Secretariat, troop-contributing countries, and the members of the Security Council; they had supported the proposal of Argentina and New Zealand on that subject. They also welcomed the important statement made by the President of the Security Council on 4 November. They firmly believed that the

enhanced dialogue with the Security Council and the increased transparency on such issues would be of crucial importance in maintaining the broad political support for United Nations peace-keeping operations and would also increase their effectiveness. The consultations should be focused on specific areas and conducted on a regular basis. The Nordic countries noted with satisfaction that the Security Council was ready to consider further measures to enhance the new arrangements; one area for future consideration would be the possibility of prior consultations with the countries in a position to contribute troops to a possible new peace-keeping operation before a decision was taken by the Security Council to launch the operation in question.

64. As the number of troop-contributing countries grew, the need for training of peace-keepers at all levels and in a variety of fields increased. Such training was first and foremost a national responsibility, whereas the role of the United Nations Secretariat should be to provide coordination and other assistance. In that connection the Nordic countries supported the idea of mobile training teams to assist the Secretariat and were themselves ready to share their vast experience and knowledge in preparing forces for peace-keeping operations.

65. Peace-keeping involved the important question of safety and security for United Nations and associated personnel. The Nordic countries were generally satisfied with the draft convention on the matter, which would provide additional legal protection for such personnel. They felt, however, that personnel of the humanitarian and other agencies also deserved such protection.

66. One of the most difficult and urgent questions facing the United Nations was how to improve its financial situation was faced was how to improve the financial situation. The continued reluctance of Member States to pay their dues in full and on time had to cease immediately. Such a lack of discipline affected the financing of peace-keeping operations, placed an added burden on troop-contributing countries and at the same time discouraged participation in such operations by developing countries. The Nordic countries underlined the need for prompt payments to troop-contributing countries and, in particular, compensation for contingent-owned equipment. It was essential that at the current session the General Assembly should take action that would contribute to ensuring a stable financial base for United Nations peace-keeping activities and to streamlining ways of financing such activities. The Nordic countries supported the proposal for introducing annual budgets for such operations. They also supported the notion of a unified peace-keeping budget and the proposals to give the Secretary-General financial authority to speed up the start-up phase of such operations.

67. Mr. ILLUECA (Panama) expressed his appreciation of the report of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations (A/49/136) and thanked its Chairman.

68. In 1995, when the Special Committee celebrated the thirtieth anniversary of its formation, it would be appropriate to recall the importance of its work. The changes that had taken place in the world in recent years had affected

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United Nations peace-keeping activities and the way they were carried out. It was essential that countries should strive to act as effectively as the Secretariat had done in elaborating new coordination mechanisms and in strengthening and restructuring the Department of Peace-keeping Operations.

69. Throughout history, mankind had never enjoyed lasting peace. In order to resolve the problems of furthering the cause of peace it was essential that analytical work should be carried out at the highest level, and at the same time a strict moral stance should be adhered to. His delegation supported the notion that peace resulted from the establishment of justice; the problems of maintaining peace therefore required an awareness of the concepts of fraternity and solidarity, together with the establishment of juster relations between States and more humane relations between individuals.

70. Peace-keeping operations had been necessary in the past and would be in the future, especially in cases of the violation of fundamental norms of international law; the United Nations undertook such operations when peace was threatened or breached. Generally speaking, violence occurred as the result of injustice in the political, social and economic spheres, and it was no surprise that United Nations operations had begun to include such elements as humanitarian assistance and assistance in conducting elections. The United Nations had achieved great successes conceptually, programmatically and organizationally, but it needed solid moral, political and financial support. In that connection attention should be given first and foremost to rationalizing the budget and creating effective control mechanisms.

71. His delegation was pleased that at the current session the General Assembly had adopted the draft convention on the safety of United Nations and associated personnel in the performance of peace-keeping operations, since such personnel were daily subjected to risk in carrying out their duties. His delegation also approved of the consultative mechanism proposed by Argentina and New Zealand within the Security Council, since such a mechanism was of great importance. Lastly he expressed gratitude to troop-contributing countries and to peace-keepers working in difficult conditions in the name of the ideals of peace, harmony and justice enunciated in the Charter.

AGENDA ITEM 76: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (continued) (A/C.4/49/L.10)

AGENDA ITEM 147: QUESTION OF THE REVIEW OF THE AGREEMENT GOVERNING THE ACTIVITIES OF STATES ON THE MOON AND OTHER CELESTIAL BODIES (continued) (A/C.4/49/L.11)

72. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to the draft resolutions contained in documents A/C.4/49/L.10 and L.11.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS
General Assembly
FORTY-NINTH SESSION
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SPECIAL POLITICAL AND
DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEE
(FOURTH COMMITTEE)
22nd meeting
held on
Tuesday, 15 November 1994
at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 22nd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. SAMANA (Vice-Chairman) (Papua New Guinea)

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In the absence of Mr. Hudyma (Ukraine), Mr. Samana (Papua New Guinea), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 79: COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE WHOLE QUESTION OF PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS IN ALL THEIR ASPECTS (continued) (A/48/403, A/49/114-S/1994/357, A/49/136, A/49/228-S/1994/827, A/49/287-S/1994/894 and Corr.1, A/49/335, A/49/336 and A/49/479; A/C.4/49/L.12)

1. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to the draft resolution contained in document A/C.4/49/L.12.

2. Mr. GOYOAGA (Uruguay) said that peace-keeping operations were conducted as a natural response to the requirements of the international community. Some operations were successful while others failed. The purpose of all such operations was to settle conflicts which could not be resolved within the existing international system. The task of the units carrying out peace-keeping measures and the activities of Member States in that area were changing in nature. The rhetoric which had accompanied the first attempts at conflict settlement had been supplanted by a detailed and careful study of the best way of pursuing the efforts to enhance the effectiveness of the system and equip it with the necessary machinery to ensure that the Security Council, the Secretariat and the other United Nations units received greater support from Member States.

3. The nature of the statements made by delegations had undergone a significant change at recent sessions. While earlier the talk had been mainly about the principles underlying peace-keeping operations and what was needed for the conduct of the operations, now the substantive aspects of the whole undertaking were being discussed. Without descending into excessive "micro-management", it was now possible to talk about "management" at the middle levels, embracing the machinery for consultations, the planning of the operations and their command and control, as well as their financing, the safety of civilian and military personnel, training and public information. In his statement in the plenary Assembly the President of Uruguay had described the general principles to which Uruguay adhered where peace-keeping operations were concerned.

4. The Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations was becoming more active, and its links with other organs of the United Nations system were being strengthened. One example of that development was the collaboration which had led to the positive proposal by Argentina and New Zealand for enhancing the consultations between the Security Council and troop-contributing Member States on the fundamental aspects of peace-keeping missions. Uruguay wholeheartedly welcomed the decision to hold such consultation meetings and hoped to receive the timetable for them in the near future.

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5. Turning to a number of specific issues, he drew attention to the excellent results of the work of the United Nations Situation Centre, which was the most effective means of ensuring the provision of information about the most critical situations, information which was particularly important for the delegations of troop-contributing countries. However, it was a source of concern that the publication of the weekly reports on field operations had been discontinued. The delegation of Uruguay requested the Secretariat to review the provision of such information and ensure that it was disseminated to Member States or at least to troop contributors.

6. In the Fourth Committee and also as a member of the Committee on Information, Uruguay had proposed the establishment of a system for incorporating in peace-keeping operations the concept of "operations centre" as used in the contemporary world of information. The proposal should be implemented by means of closer cooperation with the Department of Public Information. The delegation of Uruguay supported the draft resolution which had been submitted.

7. Mr. ASHER (Nicaragua), speaking on behalf of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, said that the establishment of a new system of international security must be one of the fundamental tasks of the United Nations, and peace-keeping operations were one of the main means of performing that task. The aim of such operations under the new system must be not only the settlement of armed conflicts but also the expansion of the capacity of the United Nations system to eliminate the root causes of most of the crises, such as poverty and an inadequate level of development.

8. It was a cause for satisfaction that the United Nations had successfully carried out a peace-keeping operation in Central America, and the Central American countries believed that the operation could serve as an example of coordination between the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Secretary-General and that it showed what successes could be achieved if due attention was given to the basic principles which should underpin peace-keeping operations - the principles of the peaceful settlement of disputes, the consent of all parties to the conflict, non-interference in internal affairs, and precise formulation of the operation's mandate. In that connection special attention should be given to the guidelines for the conduct of peace-keeping operations discussed by the Movement of Non-aligned Countries at its ministerial conference in Cairo in May 1994, the most important of which was the need to formulate precise mandates and establish a sound financial basis for the operations.

9. Many of the current peace-keeping operations included other elements in addition to the traditional measures. Although the operations were important for the maintenance of peace, they could not of themselves resolve all the conflicts occurring in the world. To judge by the summary of the discussion contained in the report of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations (A/49/136), some delegations thought that more attention should be given to the root causes of conflicts, including extreme poverty, critical economic situations, and inadequate social development, and the Central American

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countries endorsed that view. There was currently much talk about using peace-keeping operations for the provision of emergency aid, the restoration of democracy and the conduct of humanitarian activities. The Central American countries agreed that the provision of emergency aid to a stricken population, the rehabilitation of displaced persons and refugees and other humanitarian work were primarily matters for the United Nations to deal with.

10. The International Conference on Central American Refugees and the Special Plan of Economic Cooperation for Central America, which constituted a model mechanism for post-conflict peace-building and were still operating as an instrument of preventive diplomacy, had played a fundamental role in the peace process in Central America. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) were playing a special role. In that context, the Central American countries believed that, before deploying a peace-keeping operation, it should be determined whether the situation fell under the competence of the Security Council or of the General Assembly and its bodies.

11. The Central American countries endorsed the view of the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs that humanitarianism comprised three elements - concern for the well-being and integrity of victims, strict observance of political neutrality and non-discrimination in the provision of assistance - and believed that those elements were of great importance in considering humanitarian issues, which were still the subject of discussions and disagreements among members of the Organization. As the Secretary-General noted in his report (A/48/403), even among the providers of assistance, there was much discussion as to how their activities should be related to the political and military aspects of a peace-keeping operation. The Central American countries stressed the need for a careful analysis of the situation and exhaustion of all available political and diplomatic resources before deploying a peace-keeping operation. They were also gratified to note that in his report the Secretary-General recognized the fact that humanitarian emergencies might also give early warning of potential conflicts.

12. In view of the extremely rapid growth of expenditure on peace-keeping operations, the Central American countries feared that that expenditure could detract from the financial resources devoted to development. According to available data, United Nations expenditure on the deployment of a given operation always exceeded the contributions of Member States, and also the resources available within the Organization. The expenditure involved in approving or extending the mandates of peace-keeping operations must be more carefully estimated and all Member States must pay their contributions on time and in full. It was also indicated in the Special Committee's report that developing countries which were troop contributors were concerned about delays in reimbursement. The Central American countries believed that it was important to strengthen the financial base of peace-keeping operations so that even countries with limited resources could take part in them. In that connection, they supported the Special Committee's recommendation regarding the improvement of financial control in order to achieve greater transparency in the use of resources and welcomed the Secretary-General's proposal to create a sound

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financial base for the Organization, paying particular attention to the current methods of budgeting for peace-keeping operations.

13. Section B of the Special Committee's report referred to consultation and coordination mechanisms; the countries of Central America welcomed the proposal put forward by Argentina and New Zealand in the Security Council regarding a mechanism for consultations with troop-contributing countries. They were convinced that an informal system of consultations of that nature would help bring about more active political support for peace-keeping operations.

14. Post-conflict peace-building was of particular importance to the Central American countries, since they knew from their own experience the difficulties associated with the processes of reconstruction, reconciliation and renewal. They agreed with the Secretary-General that post-conflict peace-building required much more coordination than in the past between the United Nations and its specialized agencies. They had often asserted that the least expensive and most effective "peace-keeping operation" for the United Nations was the promotion of peaceful economic and social development, poverty reduction and the alleviation of social tension.

15. Although the expectations of peoples in connection with the end of the cold war had not yet been met, the international community was once again placing its hopes in the United Nations, and it was therefore necessary to review the direction of the work of the Organization with a view to achieving the goals laid down by its founders. Under the new conditions, the main objectives of the United Nations were strict observance and consistent implementation of the principles of the Charter, since not only the authority of the Organization, but also the well-being of millions of people, would depend on that.

16. Mr. CARDENAS (Argentina) said that peace-keeping operations were currently among the main efforts being made by the United Nations to maintain international peace and security. Argentina had sent more than 1,500 people to participate in ongoing peace-keeping operations. In recent years, over 7,500 Argentines had participated in the work of peace-keeping missions. In 1994, Argentina had sent a fleet of helicopters for the Argentine battalion in the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), and also 100 civilian police to Haiti, and it was prepared to provide additional assistance when the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) was officially deployed.

17. After an exhaustive analysis of the questions within its sphere of competence, the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations had submitted a draft resolution containing its conclusions. Argentina continued to follow with interest the work of the Standby Arrangements Planning Team established on the initiative of the Secretary-General. His Government, as in the past, noted with deep concern the problems associated with payments for depreciation and/or use of equipment provided to the Organization by States. It seemed unfair that States participating in peace-keeping operations should get back their equipment and vehicles in a damaged state, and not be paid any compensation.

18. His delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's tireless efforts to strengthen Secretariat bodies responsible for peace-keeping operations, and noted in particular the work of the Situation Centre, the Planning Division and the Training Unit. Argentina was not indifferent to the changes taking place in the Secretariat and, within the limits of its resources and at no cost to the Organization, had placed its qualified military personnel at the Organization's disposal for participation in various peace-keeping operations. In 1993, Argentina had submitted a proposal on the reorganization of United Nations air operations, which had been implemented to a considerable extent by the Secretariat.

19. His delegation was closely monitoring the Organization's implementation of "An Agenda for Peace", and welcomed the Secretary-General's efforts in the field of preventive diplomacy. His delegation and the delegation of New Zealand had made a proposal on enhancing the effectiveness of communication among troop-contributing States, the Secretariat and the States members of the Security Council. An informal consultations mechanism should be established to enable countries whose troops were participating in peace-keeping operations to make statements in the Council at crucial moments, for example, when a mandate was being extended or broadened. It would be useful for the Council to receive information directly from States that had sent their citizens to conflict areas.

20. His delegation re-emphasized the need for the Organization to conduct an effective policy in the field of public information on peace-keeping activities. The population of the country in which a United Nations operation was being carried out should receive at least a minimum of information on the objectives of the international presence and the ways in which such objectives were to be achieved. Such information should also be provided to the populations of troop-contributing States.

21. His delegation attached paramount importance to activities to ensure the safety of peace-keeping personnel. It had participated actively and would continue to participate in the work of the Sixth Committee in that area, and it welcomed the draft convention on the safety of United Nations and associated personnel.

22. Mr. ZUR (Israel) said that his delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's report on improving the capacity of the United Nations for peace-keeping and highly appreciated the efforts of the Department of Peace-keeping Operations. Israel was seeking to contribute to efforts to overcome the main problems facing the world. As the peace process in the Middle East gained momentum, Israel hoped that it would be able to devote more resources and attention to peace-keeping in other areas of the world. Thus, as part of the international effort under United Nations auspices, Israel had already sent 30 police officers to Haiti, six Israeli observers had participated in the first democratic all-race elections in South Africa and seven Israeli observers had served in Mozambique. Israel was willing, in principle, to contribute a fully staffed field hospital to one of the United Nations peace-keeping operations. Furthermore, Israel had provided the Secretary-General with a list of qualified Israeli civilian specialists who could serve in peace-keeping operations. Israel had also

offered assistance in mine clearance. Possibilities were being explored for continued cooperation between Israel and the United Nations through the leasing of equipment and matériel to the United Nations on a standby basis for the needs of peace-keeping forces.

23. Israel had a long tradition of providing humanitarian assistance to countries around the world and placed great emphasis on the civilian and humanitarian aspects of peace-keeping. It had been the first to respond to the request of the United Nations to provide assistance to Rwanda by establishing and operating a field hospital in Goma, Zaire, in cooperation with UNHCR and other international organizations. Israel's experience in rendering assistance in various domains encouraged it to believe that it could make substantial contributions to peace-keeping operations and related fields.

24. Mr. McKINNON (New Zealand) said that his delegation was pleased at the measures the Secretariat had taken to improve the Organization's capacity to manage peace-keeping operations and, in particular, commended the activities of the Situation Centre of the Department of Peace-keeping Operations. At the same time, it was disappointing that the weekly digest of activities affecting peace-keeping operations had been discontinued; his delegation strongly urged that publication of the digest should be resumed.

25. His delegation had been surprised and dismayed at the opposition to its proposal to establish a Security Council committee to provide oversight of peace-keeping operations in accordance with Articles 29 and 44 of the Charter of the United Nations. That would enable troop-contributing countries to participate in decisions taken by the Council concerning the employment of their respective armed forces. At the same time, his delegation welcomed the Council's decision on new consultative processes with troop-contributors, which had been referred to in the statement by the President of the Council of 4 November 1994 (S/PRST/1994/62). The new processes entailed a regular series of meetings, chaired by the President of the Council, to exchange views and information. The Council's willingness to keep those arrangements under review and consider further measures to enhance them was also commendable. Continuous attention must be given to the Council's practice of consulting countries that were neighbours of the States in which peace-keeping operations were being carried out, since that would help strengthen those countries' support for such operations.

26. His delegation paid tribute to the peace-keepers who had lost their lives in United Nations peace-keeping operations and noted with satisfaction the progress that had been made in the negotiation of the draft convention on the safety of United Nations and associated personnel. He looked forward to the early signing and ratification of the convention by Member States.

27. With regard to command and control, New Zealand noted the importance of national command structures refraining from seeking to give operational direction to forces that they had contributed to the United Nations. Unambiguous command and control arrangements, and compatibility between the military force commander and the civilian head of mission, were essential

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prerequisites for a successful operation. There was also much to be said for the early establishment of force headquarters staff. Greater commonality in military doctrine should be developed for peace-keeping forces. There should be a clearer understanding of the appropriate rules of engagement, particularly in those operations in which the mandate contained elements of peace enforcement. Lightly armed peace-keepers must have the protection of sufficient flexibility in the event of their being caught up in an uncontrolled escalation of hostilities.

28. A key challenge for the Organization was to improve its ability to respond in a timely and effective manner to crises as they occurred. Stand-by arrangements, and training and equipment reserves, were part of the answer. Some interesting initiatives had been outlined in the course of the general debate.

29. Peace-keeping continued to face a financial crisis. The situation required urgent action. Member States had to pay their contributions in full and on time. In a situation where some countries claimed that they could not pay, while others simply would not pay, the issue had to be tackled head on by the General Assembly. It could not be accepted indefinitely that non-payers could expect to enjoy the same rights as Member States in good standing. Efforts should also be made to reduce serious inequities which had crept into the scale of assessments on which peace-keeping contributions were based.

30. The draft resolution addressed such a wide range of issues, and was so comprehensive, that at times it was difficult to see the wood for the trees. His delegation believed that in 1995 it would be desirable for the Committee and the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations to examine their methods of work on the item. Since the Special Committee was in effect open to any Member State which requested observer status, and acted as an open-ended committee, it could serve as the forum for a thorough discussion of peace-keeping issues. In order to avoid unnecessary duplication owing to the fact that the recommendations of the Special Committee were revisited in the Fourth Committee, he suggested some options for altering the situation. One such option was to follow the practice of many other committees and simply note the Special Committee's report; specific draft resolutions on key topics debated by the Special Committee could then be considered. Alternatively, the Special Committee's recommendations could be cast in the form of draft resolutions, annexed to its report and presented to the Committee for adoption; or the Special Committee's report could be streamlined in order to highlight the new decisions which it had taken or recommended.

31. His delegation considered that the keys to improved performance on peace-keeping were that the United Nations should receive the resources that Member States were legally obliged to contribute; that there should be greater political accountability and transparency in decision-making; and that further work should be done on command, training and logistics matters. The most critical factor of all was that the membership of the Organization should have the will to act collectively when collective action was required.

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32. Mr. SHRESTHA (Nepal) said that peace-keeping operations were the most important means for resolving conflicts and promoting peace in accordance with the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. In his delegation's view, the effectiveness of any peace-keeping operation depended on its having a clear and precise mandate, supported by adequate human and material resources, together with a carefully phased plan. Other key elements were a consultative mechanism and unity of command. In that connection his delegation welcomed the statement by the President of the Security Council on 4 November 1994 on the arrangements for consultations between the Security Council, the Secretary-General and troop-contributing countries.

33. As a troop-contributing country, Nepal was concerned by the increasing number of casualties among personnel of United Nations peace-keeping operations and in that connection welcomed the finalization of the draft convention on the safety of United Nations and associated personnel.

34. He noted with satisfaction the growing importance attached to the training of personnel. He also supported the idea of mobile training teams.

35. His delegation fully shared the Secretary-General's concern regarding the Organization's financial difficulties and was of the view that the cost of peace-keeping operations was the collective responsibility of Member States. The notion of a unified budget, as put forward by the Secretary-General, therefore merited attention, as did the proposal to give the Secretary-General financial authority. The idea of stand-by forces was also a welcome one, although it needed further elaboration. With regard to regional arrangements, Nepal recognized the role that such arrangements could play in complementing the efficiency and effectiveness of the United Nations efforts for peace.

36. Lastly, he said that experience in peace-keeping operations had shown that the application of Chapter VI of the Charter was the best means for the peaceful resolution of conflicts. His country had therefore lent its full support to the Secretary-General's proposal for preventive diplomacy and conflict resolution as set out in his report entitled "An Agenda for Peace".

37. Mr. MAHMOUD (Lebanon) said that peace-keeping was the main activity of the United Nations in the international political arena. It was a practical means of improving the political environment and promoting more positive and productive relations within and among nations. While noting the courage and professionalism of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), his delegation regretted that UNIFIL had been unable for a number of reasons to implement its mandate as stated in Security Council resolution 425 (1978). Lebanon expressed its appreciation to the Secretary-General and his assistants for their tireless efforts to maintain the UNIFIL presence in southern Lebanon and expressed the hope that Lebanon would one day be able to participate itself in United Nations peace-keeping efforts.

38. He shared the Secretary-General's view regarding the role of public information in promoting understanding and generating support at both the national and international levels.

39. With regard to problems relating to staff safety, his delegation was pleased to note the successful conclusion of negotiations on the preparation of an international convention dealing with the protection of United Nations and associated personnel.

40. Lebanon emphasized the need for active involvement by all Member States in United Nations peace-keeping operations and for an objective approach by the Security Council to such matters. A selective approach could undermine the credibility of the Organization and its activities, particularly its peace-keeping operations.

41. In conclusion, he said that his delegation commended the Secretary-General's initiative aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of the United Nations peace-keeping apparatus and expressed the hope that the United Nations would in time play a more active role in preventive diplomacy.

42. Mr. MUTHAURA (Kenya) said that United Nations peace-keeping operations were a valuable and sometimes indispensable means of conflict management. Kenya, which had contributed both military and police personnel to various operations world wide, was happy to be associated with such operations.

43. Kenya welcomed the principles for the conduct of peace-keeping operations, for their effective management and, in line with the Charter, for encouraging support for their mandates. The recent practice whereby members of the Security Council, including its President, attended meetings between the Secretariat and troop-contributing countries was to be welcomed. His delegation fully agreed with the Secretary-General that the new practice constituted a significant step towards the development of improved mechanisms for effective consultation. Such consultations were particularly important when the Security Council was considering changes to or extensions of existing missions.

44. Consultations with countries adjacent to the conflict zone were equally important when the Security Council was considering the establishment or termination of peace-keeping missions. Given the consequences of such conflicts for neighbouring countries, it was difficult to accept that they should merely be informed about peace-keeping operations. Kenya had an 800-kilometre-long border with Somalia and had sheltered thousands of Somali refugees. The conflict had taken a heavy toll of human life in Kenya's border regions, not to mention the destruction of property and livestock and extensive damage to the ecosystem. Kenya had also played a major role in providing transit facilities for United Nations operations on behalf of Somalia.

45. Regular consultations with the Security Council were therefore of paramount importance for Kenya. Security Council resolution 954 (1994) concerning the mandate of the current United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) had addressed the concerns of neighbouring countries. Kenya strongly felt that the draft resolution on the agenda item under discussion should have been more explicit in addressing the question of consultations with countries adjacent to a country of conflict. Effective consultations should contribute to the enhancement of the Security Council's decisions and their implementation. In

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that regard, the recognition in the statement by the President of the Security Council of 4 November 1994 of the importance of consultations not only with troop-contributing countries but also with affected countries, especially those belonging to a particular region, was to be welcomed. It was to be hoped that that issue would be more adequately addressed during the next round of meetings of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations.

46. Kenya appreciated the Organization's efforts in the areas of preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and peace-building, which formed an important basis for a lasting peace. In that connection, particular attention should be paid to the establishment of early warning systems, the dispatch to potential conflict areas of fact-finding or observer missions and the establishment of observer posts in tension-filled areas, with emphasis on confidence-building measures. Such efforts should, however, be in strict compliance with the provisions of the Charter regarding national sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of Member States. In that context, the United Nations should strengthen its cooperation with regional organizations such as the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in the spirit of Chapter VIII of the Charter and provide the regional agencies with the necessary technical, logistic and financial assistance.

47. The effective and efficient implementation of peace-keeping operations required adequate funding, human resources, prompt deployment of personnel and objective organizational criteria. Peace-keeping forces should also be truly multinational. It was important for Member States to honour their financial obligations to the Organization through timely payment of assessed contributions and clearance of arrears. Timely payment of contributions would facilitate prompt reimbursement of troop-contributing countries, especially those with limited resources. His delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's initiative aimed at making arrangements for stand-by forces. It believed that stand-by forces would result in the rapid assembly, deployment and effective operation of United Nations forces. It also welcomed the relevant sections of the resolution addressing those issues.

48. His delegation wished to underscore the importance of public information, which was adequately addressed in the draft resolution. It believed that the United Nations had previously done too little to inform local populations of the nature of its operations.

49. In conclusion, he paid tribute to the staff of the Secretariat and of all United Nations peace-keeping operations, commending the progress made in the elaboration of a Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel. His delegation also supported the view of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations that the Secretary-General should initiate a dialogue with Member States on possible additional safety measures.

AGENDA ITEM 76: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 147: QUESTION OF THE REVIEW OF THE AGREEMENT GOVERNING THE ACTIVITIES OF STATES ON THE MOON AND OTHER CELESTIAL BODIES (continued) (A/C.4/49/L.10 and L.11)

50. Mr. BOCK (Austria), introducing draft resolution A/C.4/49/L.10 entitled "Enlargement of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space", said that the question had already been under consideration for two years, but recently extensive informal consultations had been held on the subject by the members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS). The results of the consultations held prior to the current session of the General Assembly were reflected in paragraphs 154 to 157 of the report of COPUOS (A/49/20). At the current session of the General Assembly, those consultations had continued, and Austria had felt that there was a need for a draft resolution.

51. Introducing draft resolution A/C.4/49/L.11 entitled "International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, including the question of the review of the Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies" on behalf of the Working Group on International Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, he briefly referred to the recent decisions and recommendations of COPUOS and its subsidiary bodies which were reflected in the relevant paragraphs of the draft resolution. He pointed out that the draft resolution also referred to agenda item 147, since in paragraph 42 the General Assembly would note the recommendation of COPUOS that, at its current session, the General Assembly should take no action on that question.

52. Mr. BERTRAND (France), speaking in explanation of vote before the vote, said that his delegation intended to vote in favour of the two draft resolutions. At the same time, it was disappointed that there was no consensus which, as indicated in paragraph 156 of the report of COPUOS, was an essential condition for all decisions relating to the membership of COPUOS. His delegation hoped that in its future work COPUOS, as in the past, would adhere to the principle of unanimity of its members.

Draft resolution A/C.4/49/L.10

53. A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein,

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Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: None.

54. Draft resolution A/C.4/49/L.10 was adopted by 110 votes to 1.

55. Mr. DONLON (United States of America) said that his delegation was deeply concerned about developments in the work on expanding the membership of COPUOS. For a decade, his delegation and others had sought to maintain the principle of consensus as the sole basis for conducting the work of that Committee. Regrettably, there had always been sceptics who had little enthusiasm for consensus or for the spirit of good will, and now the sceptics had carried the day. His delegation could not support the draft resolution because it did not reflect the consensus agreement referred to in paragraphs 156 and 157 of the report of COPUOS (A/49/20). In light of those developments, the United States of America intended to review carefully the scope and nature of its future participation in the work of COPUOS.

56. Mr. GUILLEN (Peru), speaking on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, congratulated the countries which had become members of COPUOS under the procedures established by that Committee on the basis of consensus, including consultations with the regional groups concerned. He hoped that the request for a vote on the question of the admission of new members to COPUOS would not create a precedent for the future work of the Committee either from the point of view of form or from the point of view of substance. On the question of the admission of new members to COPUOS, he drew attention to the need to preserve the spirit of cooperation and consensus which had always been inherent to the work of that Committee.

Draft resolution A/C.4/49/L.11

57. Draft resolution A/C.4/49/L.11 was adopted.

58. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had completed its consideration of agenda items 76 and 147.

The meeting rose at 12.05 p.m.